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[Colombo SUN 9 Feb]

ARAB LEAGUE ENDORSES SADDAM HUSAYN'S INITIATIVE

LD201803 Tunis TAP in English 1421 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, Feb 20 (TAP)--Mr Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League made the following statement on the "charter for national action":

What is included in the charter for national action launched by President Saddam Husayn is in accordance with the objectives for which the Arab League has been created; namely, the strengthening of solidarity between member states and the defense of their security and sovereignty.

The Arab League which is the voicing of national conscience, has to support any initiative aiming at strengthening Arab solidarity and at laying the relations between Arab countries and the rest of the world on the bases of friendship, mutual respect and sincere co-operation, always bearing in mind the common Arab higher interests.

(?In) front of the coming back of the cold war between the two superpowers and all the dangers that may result from this affair on the future of peace in the world and particularly at the level of our area and in order to thwart the intrigues aiming at dismembering Arab ranks. The interest of the Arab nation demands the banishing of all inter-Arab disputes, the settling of conflicts through pacific means, the standing aside (?from international coalitions).

The alternative proposed by the charter for national action is not in contradiction with the imperative of the Arab states' participation in the search for appropriate solutions to the great problems of our time. This means that the fact that Arabs stand aside of international conflicts and the policy of alliances and blocks, preferring to be interested in the edification of their respective societies, doesn't mean that they are in favour of isolationism. This only means that they wish to attune their relations with the other nations according to the rule of mutual advantages and for the safeguard of peace all around the world.

15 ARAB STATES TO ATTEND CONFERENCE ON LIBYA, TUNISIA 20 FEB

LD201750 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis--It was announced in Tunis today that 15 Arab states have agreed to take part in the 26 February emergency meeting of the Arab League Council to discuss Tunisian-Libyan relations. The states in question are: Iraq, Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Somalia, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania and the Yemen Arab Republic. Tunisia requested the meeting following the attack on the Tunisian town of Qafsah.

YASIR 'ARAFAT COMMENTS ON LEBANON, RELATIONS WITH IRAN

LD201611 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 15 Feb 80 pp 1, 10 LD

[Jasim al-Mutawwa' report on PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's statements at meeting with Arab ambassadors in Tehran in Lebanese ambassador's residence during recent visit to Iran]

[Excerpts] Tehran--During his visit to Iran Yasir 'Arafat met with the accredited Arab ambassadors at the residence of the Lebanese ambassador, dean of the Arab diplomatic corps.

At the beginning the Lebanese ambassador made a speech welcoming 'Arafat and expressing the feelings of those present toward the Palestinian revolution and their wishes for its victory. The ambassador also asked 'Arafat to brief them on what is really happening in Lebanon.

'Arafat said: The situation in Lebanon needs persistent work. It was not a coincidence that [General] Tamir and, earlier, Weizman declared that they have completed their preparations on the northern front. Tamir was even more explicit when he said that the preparations are in order to confront the PLO and Syria. Which means that they are preparing for a military operation. This was what we have discussed with the Syrian brothers. This happened immediately after the redeployment of the Syrian forces. As you know, the Syrians have a division in Beirut and a brigade in the south and Sidon--that is more than 40,000 soldiers in Lebanon. Speculations center on this question: Is it true or possible that Israel will launch a preemptive strike?

In the midst of this atmosphere and following the Afghanistan events, the Americans have been able to score some political gains. When Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko came to Damascus recently I asked him about these Israeli preparations. He cited to me what Napoleon Bonaparte once said. He said, "The worst fight is the fight against a stupid General." These Israelis might be technologically advanced but they are stupid and deceitful. We do not know when, where and how they will strike. In the light of this we have alerted all our forces in order to face the worse eventualities.

As you know, not a single Iranian soldier has so far entered Lebanon. The Iranians are now in training camps in Syria. We proceed on the basis of an understanding with the Iranian leadership; that is, if 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000 Iranians entered [Lebanon] they would not decide the battle with Israel but would be a provocation for it. Nevertheless, the propaganda about their [Iranian volunteers] existence in Lebanon is continuing. Israel is harping on this in order to mount a certain battle against the Palestinians or the Syrians or both. It is difficult to find a precise answer to this situation but all the possibilities are being taken into consideration. The withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Beirut has not yet been completed. During our recent visit to President al-Asad we asked that the withdrawal of these forces be postponed until we find a solution. The problem is who would fill the vacuum in Beirut.

He added: The withdrawal from Sidon has not created a problem. On the contrary, it brought about a good understanding with the Lebanese Army in Sidon. There was a redeployment and withdrawal from Sidon, but there are only two forces there: the army force, which is the legitimate force, and the Palestinian force, which has an understanding with the legitimate authority. There is no problem. But the situation in Beirut is different.

Abu 'Ammar added: Our agreements with the legitimate authority are governed by the resolutions of the Cairo, Baghdad and Tunis summits. There is no longer a problem there and we hope to reach a solution in Beirut. We are trying to do the same thing with the Lebanese leaders that have visited Damascus. President al-Asad told me: As long as this impasse exists I will postpone the withdrawal of the Syrian forces until we find a solution to this problem in Beirut that will satisfy all the parties.

God willing, we will overcome this impasse and we must overcome it because there is a clear Israeli threat. The most serious thing about this threat is what Menahem Begin called "Israel's commitment to protect the Christians in the north and the south, even if this should necessitate a special operation in Beirut." It is feared that this would be a signal to [Phalangist military commander] Bashir al-Jumayyil to launch a military operation in Beirut. Any operation of this kind would not only affect us but would also upset Syrian military plans. It is inconceivable that an operation would be carried out in Beirut while the Syrian forces stationed in the mountains stood idly by. We must, therefore, look at the situation very carefully and precisely. We have adopted several decisions with our brothers in the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Nationalist Front to avoid any disruption in the capital and insure military coordination against the movements of the enemy and his agents.

'Arafat continued: Israel's aim of exploding the Lebanese situation is to enter into battle with Syria from Lebanese territory in order to avoid any international embarrassment. This must be taken into consideration. Soviet-Syrian relations might not stand any battles on the Golan Heights. Therefore, Israel can confront the Syrians from Lebanon. The enemy's plan is to enter via Al-'Urqub and advance toward Al-Biqa'. That is in the direction of Damascus, or to outflank the city of Homs. But the Syrian brothers have taken tremendous measures on this line in order to thwart the Israeli dream. The battle with the enemy is not over yet. The Camp David conspiracy is continuing and, in my opinion, something of what I have just said about the aggressive Israeli plans will take place before 28 May, the date the so-called autonomy talks are acheduled to be concluded. The Egyptians, the Israelis and the Americans are still saying that certain changes in the balance of power in favor of Camp David are bound to happen. As long as there is no progress in the autonomy talks, a military action in order to change the situation or "turn the tables" is bound to be taken so the people will forget about Camp David and live in the new reality. Therefore, danger will remain imminent from now and until 28 May.

Asked about Arab-Iranian relations, Abu 'Ammar said: There is a fundamental element in this matter. It is that Arab-Iranian relations in general and Palestinian-Iranian relations in particular are very ancient and need no discussing at higher levels. I have discussed Arab-Iranian relations and I am gratified with the outcome of the talks. In my talks with Ayatollah Khomeyni, members of the Revolutionary Council, members of the Islamic Republican Party, President Dr Bani-Sadr and various ministers, I came out with a good impression with regard to the strategic importance of not only Arab-Iranian but also Iranian-Palestinian relations. I was glad to find his eminence the imam in good health. I was worried and concerned about him but I found him to be well.

Referring to the question of the American hostages, Abu 'Ammar said that he prefers not to discuss this matter, adding: "They [no further clarification] asked me but I answered that I am not a mediator in the question of the hostages." Laughing, he added: "They also told me not to talk."

Returning to the subject of Egypt, 'Arafat said: Egypt's present absence from the Arab nation is temporary but it is not easy. Egypt is the western front and its departure is not easy for either the Arabs or the Palestinians. [paragraph continues]

But the Iranian stand has made up for 95, if not 100 percent of Egypt's temporary absence, especially because there are advantages in the Iranian stand that did not exist in the Egyptian stand. The other and the more important advantage is that the Iranian Army possesses an "incredible" amount of arms and equipment. According to European experts and experts from the International Institute for Strategic Studies, it is the fifth power--that is the fifth-strongest army--in the world."

Speaking about Palestinian-Libyan differences, Abu 'Ammar said: I know about Colonel al-Qadhdhafi more than anybody else in the area. Since 'Abd an-Nasir's death I am the one who knows him best.

When told that recently there were reports about Iranian mediation between Libya and the PLO, Abu 'Ammar said: The matter needs no mediator. Brother Mu'ammar said no mediation. Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid said that he would send him a mediator and Al-Qadhdhafi accepted him. But again I would say that nobody should trouble himself with my brother Mu'ammar.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSES HEBRON SITUATION

JN191959 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 19 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Beirut, 19 February--Today the PLO Executive Committee discussed the situation in the occupied homeland and the settlement rush on Hebron in the occupied West Bank.

The Palestinian news agency (WAFA) reports that the committee decided to take several measures on the local, Arab, Muslim and international levels to face the situation. The committee also decided to ask its UN delegate to explain the impact and dangers of this policy, which has escalated since the Camp David agreements, on the conditions of our people in the occupied land.

VOP ANNOUNCES PROTEST PRAYER IN NABULUS 22 FEB

NC201625 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Next Friday the masses in the occupied lands will conduct prayers in Nabulus. This is in response to an appeal by nationalist figures which met in Nabulus to protest the Zionist authorities' resolution banning the mayors of the West Bank and Gaza from participating in the national conference scheduled to be held yesterday in Jerusalem.

Large crowds are expected to participate in these prayers. They will come from various parts of the occupied lands, a fact which will turn this ceremony into a demonstration of struggle in which the Palestinian people will express their complete solidarity with Nabulus in its brave struggle against the Zionist settlement of Nabulus, the extension of Qiryat Arba' settlement--which is located on the lands of Nabulus--and various other settlements all over the occupied lands.

QADDUMI MAKES STATEMENT AFTER MEETING WITH AL-HUSS

NC202226 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met this evening at his residence in Ad-Dawhah with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, who was accompanied by Basil 'Aql. Engineer Hani Salam attended the meeting.

They reviewed the situations in Lebanon and the Arab world. After the meeting, Qaddumi made a statement in which he said: We came to reassure ourselves about the peace process in Lebanon and the recent developments, especially regarding the detente plan, the political initiative made by the Nationalist Movement, and the effect this has had on the Lebanese situation. He added: We assured the prime minister that the PLO very strongly supports Lebanese detente and the peace process and is willing to do its best, if asked to do so, for the success of all efforts to achieve national detente in Lebanon.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS ON INVITATION TO PLO

LD201018 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0735 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Japan's Foreign Minister Saburo Okita, in a press statement today, stressed that the Japanese Government will welcome Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat should he visit Tokyo, but it cannot extend an official invitation. In a statement published by AL-QABAS, he says that if 'Arafat and the chief of the Political Department of the organization, Faruq Qaddumi, accepted invitations extended last week by the chairman of the Japanese National Assembly [as received] through the United Arab Emirates, "it would please the government to welcome them, realizing the importance of this visit [word indistinct] relations with the liberation organization."

He adds that the government "is unable to" extend an official invitation to 'Arafat and Qaddumi taking into consideration that the liberation organization "is not a state and not a government in the accepted term." However, the Japanese minister also stressed his country recognized that the organization represents the rights of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat previously explained that the would not visit Japan unless officially invited by its government.

## BAHRAIN

### AMIR RECEIVES THANK YOU CABLE FROM BANI-SADR

NC210743 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0720 GMT 21 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Manama, 21 February--The amir of the State of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, received a cable today from the president of the Iranian Islamic Republic, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, in reply to his highness' cable on the first anniversary of the victory of the Iranian Revolution.

In his cable, Dr Bani-Sadr expresses his gratitude to his highness the amir of the State of Bahrain and wishes more progress and prosperity for the Bahraini people.

## KUWAIT

### GOVERNMENT REJECTS LIBYAN THREAT AS INTERNAL INTERFERENCE

LD201338 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1214 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] Kuwait--It was reported here today that Kuwait has rejected a Libyan threat to withdraw its ambassador from Kuwait if French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who intends to pay a visit to a number of Gulf countries next month, is received here.

A high-level official at the Foreign Ministry has stated that Kuwait considers this officially conveyed threat to be interference in its internal affairs. The official added that Kuwait expressed its hope to Libya that it will not withdraw its ambassador from here, but has meanwhile told Libya that such a matter is the sole concern of the Libyan Government.

The official was addressing journalists after a meeting between Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Libyan Ambassador Husni Salih. The official said Libya "wanted" Kuwait, through its ambassador in Tripoli, to propose to President Giscard d'Estaing that he postpone his planned visit here at the beginning of March, and which will also include Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Jordan.

Relations between Libya and France have deteriorated after the Libyan accusation against France of militarily invading Tunisia.

The official said the Libyan Foreign Secretariat had told the Kuwaiti ambassador that "out of its concern for the continued fraternal relations which link Libya with its sister states in the Gulf, especially Kuwait, Libya wants Kuwait to suggest to the French president that he should postpone his expected visit to Kuwait within his Gulf tour unless France alters its stand, because present conditions make it imperative that this visit should not take place, and Libya will be forced to withdraw its ambassador if the visit takes place."

The official said Kuwait had told Libya that it considered welcoming its guests as purely an internal matter "and that it does not accept any interference from whatever side in deciding on this, and that Kuwait, while not interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and what they decide on, stresses the need for no interference in its internal affairs."

The official added "that Kuwait hopes that sister Libya will not resort to withdrawing its ambassador at the time of the visit of President Giscard d'Estaing, and that it considers that such a matter only concerns sister Libya."

INFORMATION MINISTER ON EVENTS NEAR GULF AREA

NC2109l4 Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 21 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 February--Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali has described the events taking place near the Gulf area as extremely important historical events which will leave their imprint on the area for many years. In an interview published by the Abu Dhabi paper AL-FAJR today, Al-'Ali says Kuwait, its sisters and neighbors are aware of the seriousness of the events in the area and that through continuous coordination and understanding with them it is trying to avert the dangers to which the peoples of this area are being subjected and to foil the plots which are being concocted against them.

The Kuwaiti information minister stresses that collective action by the Arab and Islamic states is the best guarantee to keep the area away from the conflict of the two superpowers.

Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali praises the cooperation in the information field among the states in the region, particularly in answering the fierce onslaughts by the information media of the Zionists and of the quarters that are hostile to the Arab nation. He says the states in the region are seeking closer cooperation in the information field to develop their common trends.

Praising the results of the fifth conference of the Gulf states information ministers that was recently held in Doha, Al-'Ali says this conference achieved more such cooperation.

Concerning Kuwait's stand on the normalization of the relations between Egypt and Israel, the Kuwaiti minister says: Kuwait's next steps will depend on what the brothers agree. He points out that Kuwait's stand in this regard is a principled one which has been announced before. This stand is based on rejecting a separate peace, and opposing all steps and agreements which conflict with Arab interests and do not provide for returning the occupied Arab territories and for the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people in their land and home.

AS-SIYASAH ADVOCATES IRAN'S RELEASE OF U.S. HOSTAGES

LD171018 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0728 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 17 February--The Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH affirms today that the political power of the Iranian administration actually lies in releasing the American hostages detained at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

With the election of a president of republic, the Iranian regime has reached a point where it can impose its presence in the face of any internal difficulties which affect Iran's relations with the outside world, the paper adds. First and foremost, it says, politics are not the manifestation of weakness in as much as they are a manifestation of strength and power, particularly the power of the regime and its actions.

On the question of Iranian-American relations, the paper refers to the formation of the international committee to investigate the crimes of the former shah and writes: It seems as though the relations between the two countries are passing through an undeclared understanding, though the signs of this understanding are there to see by all those who know the heart of matter.

INTERIOR MINISTER ANNOUNCES REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

LD181004 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0707 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 18 February--The Kuwaiti Government has invited all new voters to register themselves in a further step toward the resumption of parliamentary life, which was suspended in 1976, it was officially announced today.

The invitation was contained in an order issued by the interior minister, Shaykh Nawsaf al-Ahmad as-Sabah, which also provided for the formation of a 34-member committee to carry out the registration. Voters must be of a Kuwaiti origin, 21 years old or over this month, and have never been convicted of a criminal or moral offense.

PDRY

NORTH-SOUTH MILITARY COMMITTEE STARTS WORK IN ADEN

LD172246 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] The joint military committee of the two parts of the homeland began its work in Aden this morning. The delegation of the southern part is led by Lt Col Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, member of the Central Committee and deputy defense minister. The delegation of the northern part is led by brother Lt Col 'Ali al-Mansur, deputy chief of General Staff for Military Affairs.

Brother Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd delivered an address to open the proceedings in which he welcomed the brother chairman and members of the delegation of the northern part to the military committee. He said: I welcome you on the occasion of our first meeting this year as true colleagues and brothers who have made real efforts to accomplish the tasks with which our military committee has been charged in implementation of the unification agreement. He said: We of the military committee are honored to be able to supervise the implementation of our agenda as a committee which constitutes a basic foundation for the future of our armed forces security and as a shield to protect our Yemeni unity in terms of territory, people and sovereignty. He added: The spirit of true cooperation, which has been our guideline during our meetings, is indicative of the seriousness and constructiveness of the sons of our Yemeni people who are soldiers and who will never rest from their task of protecting and building our happy Yemen. He went on to say: We feel proud and happy at all our efforts in the fields of protection and construction and working together with our great people to bring to realization our aspiration to achieve a free and happy united Yemen advancing along the path of democracy and progress.

The meeting was also addressed by Lt Col 'Ali al-Mansur, who said he was very happy about progress of the work of the joint military committee of the two parts of the homeland. He described the steps taken by the committee in the course of its work as very positive. He stressed that continued efforts would be made to complete the committee's work and to apply scientific methods to the task of building the armed forces, which would become the defensive shield for protecting the Yemeni homeland, under the aegis of the government of unity--the hope of our Yemeni broad masses.

Subsequently, the committee applied itself to its agenda.

Meet With Isma'il

LD201658 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee secretary general and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium received in his office this morning a delegation of the military committee of the northern region of the homeland, led by brother Lt Col 'Ali al-Mansur, deputy chief of the General Staff for Military Affairs.

During the meeting, which was attended by brothers Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, Political Bureau candidate member and defense minister; Lt Col Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, Central Committee member, deputy defense minister, director of the Political Department at the Defense Ministry and leader of the southern region side on the joint military committee; and Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Central Committee member and director of the brother secretary general's office. Discussion took place on the achievements of the joint military committee in the light of its program and on the importance of existing efforts to accomplish these tasks side by side with the remaining joint unity committees with a view to implementing the unity agreement and the statement of the presidents of the two regions.

Statement on Talks

LD201905 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Statement issued 20 February by the joint military committee of the two parts of the homeland--read by announcer]

[Text] In an atmosphere of true brotherly understanding, the joint military committee of the two parts of Yemen held meetings of its first session for 1980 in the city of Aden from 16 through 19 February 1980 under the chairmanship of brothers Lt Col 'Ali Qasim al-Mansur, deputy chief of General Staff in the northern part of the homeland, and Lt Col Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, Central Committee member and deputy defense minister in the southern part of the homeland.

During the meetings a discussion took place on a number of questions concerning the building of the Yemeni Armed Forces and the basis of their unification. The work of this session was accomplished with complete agreement and success.

The joint military committee of the two parts of Yemen extends thanks and commendations to the political leadership in the two parts of the homeland for their sincere efforts to fulfill the hopes of our people and their destiny and affirms its determination and resolve to continue to accomplish the remainder of its work in a responsible brotherly spirit, having in mind the interests of the Yemeni people.

At the end of the meetings of its first session for 1980 it agreed to hold the next session in San'a' city.

[Signed] Lt Col Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, chairman of the military committee of the southern part of the homeland, and Lt Col 'Ali Qasim al-Mansur, chairman of the military committee of the northern part of the homeland.

DEFENSE MINISTER RETURNS FROM VISIT TO LIBYA, ALGERIA

LD210006 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, candidate member of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau and minister of defense, returned with his delegation to Aden this morning after official visits to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Democratic Republic of Algeria. The visits lasted several days in each of the two countries, during which he conveyed verbal messages from brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1st September Revolution, and Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general and president of the Algerian Republic.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, brother 'Ali Antar said that his visits to Tripoli and Algiers took place within the framework of an exchange of views between the PDRY, Libya, Algeria and the rest of the brothers in the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. Their purpose is a study of the situation in the Arab region and strengthening resistance to the plots of imperialism, Zionism and As-Sadat. These plots are aimed at raising tension in the region, establishing aggressive bases and throwing the region into conflicts that would serve only the objectives of U.S. imperialism.

The brother minister of defense expressed his satisfaction with the results of the visits and pointed out that there was excellent understanding on the part of the Libyan and Algerian officials regarding their principled stands toward the revolution in Democratic Yemen. He expressed his gratitude for the support provided by Libya and Algeria for our country in all fields.

The minister was greeted on arrival by brother Qasim 'Abd ar-Rab, member of the YSP Central Committee and deputy chief of the General Staff, and senior officials of the armed forces. It will be recalled that the delegation accompanying brother 'Ali Antar included 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, YSP Central Committee member and minister of industry.

SOVIET TRADE EXHIBITION OPENS IN ADEN

LD210036 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, this morning opened the Soviet trade exhibition at the Soviet-Yemeni friendship building. The opening ceremony was attended by the brother deputy trade minister, brother officials in the ministry, the Soviet ambassador to Aden, the Soviet commercial attache and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Aden.

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali made a speech at the opening ceremony in which he described the exhibition as a symbol of friendship, saying it constitutes a new leap forward in trade relations between the two countries to the same level as the relations that link us with the Soviet Union in other fields.

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali appreciated the Soviet Union's support and the assistance it gives our country.

Concluding his speech, he expressed his appreciation of the level of relations between our country and the Soviet Union, relations crowned by the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. It expresses the firm (?cohesion) between the Soviet Union, the socialist states and the rest of the national liberation movements and the socialist-oriented developing countries.

PEOPLE'S COUNCIL'S GHANIM LEAVES FOR VISITS TO UAE, IRAN

LD201832 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Ghanim, secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, left Aden this morning for the UAE and the Islamic Republic of Iran on official visits to the two countries. The visits will last several days.

The ADEN NEWS AGENCY reported that during the visits, brother 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Ghanim will deliver messages from brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, concerning relations between Democratic Yemen and the UAE and Iran as well as developments in the current situation in the region.

DELEGATION TO ATTEND PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

LD181524 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] Democratic Yemen will participate in the conference on solidarity with the Palestinian people to be held in Basel, Switzerland, from 22 to 24 February. Brother Najib Muhammad Ibrahim, member of the Central Committee and secretary of information of the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity [YCPS], will leave Aden this afternoon at the head of a YCPS delegation to attend the conference, which has been organized by the WPC.

Brother Najib Muhammad Ibrahim told the ADEN NEWS AGENCY that at the conference the delegation will stress our country's firm and principled attitude toward and unlimited support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle to regain their legitimate rights, including that of establishing their own independent national state under PLO leadership. The delegation will also condemn imperialist, Zionist and as-Sadat conspiracies being hatched against the Palestinian Arab people through the implementation of the traitorous and capitulatory Camp David accord. Brother Najib Muhammad Ibrahim said he plans to meet many of the delegations attending the conference in order to coordinate with them on solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people.

HIGHER NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

LD181526 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today issued a Council of Ministers' decision to set up a Higher National Planning Council. The first article lays down the composition of the council as follows: Prime minister as chairman; and members are the planning minister, the finance minister, the labor and civil service minister, the governor of the Bank of Yemen, and the deputy planning minister.

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD CHAIRS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION

LD210029 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Summary] Chairman of the Council of Ministers 'Ali Nasir Muhammad this morning chaired a regular meeting of the Council of Ministers. The ADEN NEWS AGENCY reports that the council discussed a report by the Ministry of Installations on construction projects in the governorates.

"The Council of Ministers also heard a report on the visit by the brother industry minister to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the results of his contacts with Libyan brothers. At its regular meeting the Council of Ministers also studied a draft law on the renaming and reorganization of the governorates and provinces. After observations on the council's decisions have been put forward, it will be submitted to the Supreme People's Council for debate at its forthcoming session.

"The Council of Ministers also approved an agreement on cultural, scientific and educational cooperation signed between the PDRY and the Syrian Arab Republic [words indistinct]

ARMED FORCES REPORTEDLY REDEPLOYED ON BORDERS AT SOVIET REQUEST

LD201459 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 18 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Text] The ruling regime in Aden has recently redeployed and reorganized its armed forces on the borders with neighboring states. An official source at the office of the South Yemen United National Front in Cairo has stated that the forces were redeployed at the request of the Soviet military advisers.

## SAUDI ARABIA

KING KHALID SAYS HIS HEALTH IS 'PROGRESSING'

JN211239 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a cable of thanks from His Majesty Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in reply to the cable sent by King Husayn inquiring about the health of the Saudi King. The Saudi monarch told King Husayn that his health is witnessing continued progress.

KUNA REPORTS SAUDI-FRENCH DEAL FOR NUCLEAR REACTOR

LD200952 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0721 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--The Kuwaiti AL-ANBA says today that France has agreed to supply the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a nuclear reactor and sophisticated weapons in return for Saudi oil concessions. It says that French Premier Raymond Barre will be holding talks "in great secrecy and gravity" when he visits Saudi Arabia next Saturday.

AL-ANBA says that the kingdom has asked France to build it a nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes and that France has agreed in principle to this request, but is awaiting the completion of talks during Barre's visit.

The paper quotes other French sources as having said that France has been trying to convince the Gulf states to accept Western military protection against any "Soviet invasion." It says that the French president, Giscard d'Estaing, who will visit the Gulf during next March, will try to convince countries of the region who have reservations about American military presence that its purpose is to protect world peace and to protect the countries of the region against any outside aggression. It adds that France will offer to take the place of the United States in protecting the Arabian Gulf region if they were exposed to outside attack.

UAE

JAPANESE ENVOY SONODA MEETS PRESS IN ABU DHABI

NC211015 Doha QNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 21 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 February--Sunao Sonoda, a former Japanese foreign minister and special envoy of the Japanese prime minister, has emphasized that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East must be established on the basis of the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the UN Charter, which upholds the right of self-determination. It must also be based on implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on full respect of the sovereignty and independence of each state in the area.

At a press conference in Abu Dhabi this morning, Sonoda said that the Palestinian question is the essence of the conflict in the Middle East and that solutions must be found to this question in accordance with the international resolutions. Sonoda affirmed that his country wants to see a just and comprehensive peace in the area. He expressed Japan's readiness to contribute to this end.

The Japanese official said that the Palestinian-Japanese dialog which is currently taking place with the participation of the UAE is aimed at strengthening mutual understanding between Japan and the PLO.

Regarding the Gulf's security, the Japanese official stressed that his country is interested in keeping the area out of international conflicts, particularly the conflict between the two superpowers. He said the responsibility for security and stability in the area falls on the shoulder of the states in the area, which should cooperate among themselves in this regard. Sonoda went on to say that Japan is prepared to cooperate with the United States and Western European states in exerting every effort to safeguard the security of the Gulf.

Regarding the objective of his current visit to the UAE and some Middle East states, Sonoda said: We want to contribute to the stability and peace of the Middle East and Gulf regions particularly in the light of the new conditions following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He added: We want to establish more contacts which would help us draw up our future plans and policy in the two regions. He described his discussions with the UAE officials as useful and fruitful, saying that agreement has been reached to form a joint committee of the two countries to bolster economic and social cooperation. He added that he renewed the invitation to the UAE president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan, to visit Japan.

The Japanese envoy is scheduled to leave Abu Dhabi for Baghdad today after a 2-day visit to the UAE.

OIL IMPORTS IN DUBAI EXEMPTED FROM DUTIES

NC201651 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1625 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 20 February--His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, vice president and prime minister, has decided to exempt all petroleum products imported into Dubai from all customs and municipal duties as a first step in combating the high prices of these products.

YAR

PRESIDENT RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR 18 FEB

JN181304 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received at his office at 1300 today Soviet Ambassador in San'a' Vasiliy Kornev. During the meeting, discussion centered on bilateral relations linking the two friendly states.

PRESIDENT'S ADVISER DISCUSSES PROPOSED IRAQI CHARTER

JN181120 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] San'a', 18 February--'Abdallah al-Asnaj, the YAR president's political adviser, described the national charter proposed on 8 February by President Saddam Husayn as "a sincere call expressing the awakening of the Arab conscience against imperialist and colonialist dominating schemes."

In a statement to the INA correspondent, Al-Asnaj said that the charter organizes Arab relations and places them within a natural framework during very serious and complicated Arab and international circumstances. He asserted the importance of understanding the responsibilities the charter puts forward to achieve Arab economic integration and to continue the struggle to restore the legitimate Arab rights in Palestine and oppose any kind of alliance or foreign influence on Arab territory.

AL-AHRAM: NEXT AUTONOMY MEETING TO BE IN NETHERLANDS

NC210822 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0757 GMT 21 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 February--The Netherlands Government has agreed to the holding of the tripartite meeting of the heads of the Egyptian, Israeli and U.S. delegations to the Palestinian autonomy discussions in the Hague.

AL-AHRAM reports today that the Netherlands Government asked the three parties not to announce this report but that it was leaked to news agencies in The Hague.

AL-BAZ SAYS GOVERNMENT TO RESIST ISRAEL SETTLEMENT POLICY

NC210918 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 21 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 February--Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz has stated that Egypt will firmly resist the Israeli policy of escalating settlement and will not hesitate to confront this policy decisively

In a statement to today's issue of the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, Al-Baz said that this escalation, which threatens the Arab lands, belies the Israeli pretexts that settlement is being done for security purposes and shows that it is a step toward annexation, which is a very grave matter.

Al-Baz explained that what Israel is doing is a qualitative and not only a quantitative escalation of the settlement demands because the aim is to plant a foreign presence inside the Arab towns, which is a first step toward submitting pretexts or demands for land annexations, as happened in Jerusalem.

GHALI ISSUES STATEMENT IN PARIS ON FOREIGN POLICY

NC201950 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Paris, 20 February--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that Egypt is again stressing the importance of the North-South dialog. Europe, he said, is paying attention to the East-West dialog at the expense of the North-South dialog.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Paris, Dr Ghali said that because of its central position in Europe, Switzerland can play a positive role in this connection and can contribute to the promotion of solutions to the Middle East problem, whether such solutions are complementary or alternative ones.

Dr Ghali, who stopped over in Paris today from Switzerland, said that Switzerland has been responsive and has shown understanding of the Egyptian efforts as well as appreciation for President as-Sadat's initiative and a willingness to provide necessary assistance.

On his visit to Senegal and Guinea, Dr Ghali said that he will be delivering written messages from President Anwar as-Sadat to Senegalese President Leopold Senghor and Guinean President Ahmad Sekou Toure. He said that the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli tripartite meeting will be held in a European capital, but the exact venue has not been agreed upon yet.

Dr Ghali stopped over at Charles de Gaulle Airport this afternoon on his way to Dakar from Berne, concluding a 2-day visit to Switzerland and beginning his African tour.

DEFENSE MINISTER 'ALI ON U.S. ARMS FOR EGYPT

NC202307 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 February--Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, minister of defense and war production, has stated that the second U.S. armament loan for Egypt--on which talks are currently in progress--will give Egypt unconditional options to obtain F-15 and F-16 fighter planes and modern tanks of M60A3 type, which is among the most advanced armor in the U.S. arsenal.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM to be published in its Thursday edition, the defense and war production minister says that the new U.S. loan will not place any restrictions on the types of weapons with which the United States will provide Egypt.

He adds that the relations between Cairo and Washington are progressing very rapidly.

He said that the U.S. agreement to supply Egypt with this type of plane will put Egypt on exactly equal footing with Israel as far as armament is concerned and it confirms the U.S. support for its friends in the Middle East.

In his statement to AL-AHRAM, General 'Ali also said that our possession of the best fighter and fighter bomber in the world denotes the U.S. determination to strengthen Egypt's defense capabilities and ability to honor its Arab commitments.

DELIVERY OF FRENCH ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA DENIED

NC202240 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2217 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 February--The Egyptian Foreign Ministry today categorically denied the report published last Sunday in the British TIMES about Egypt delivering French arms from France to South Africa.

A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in this connection says that this denial is based on the following:

1. France has itself denied the report.

2. Egypt has no interest in delivering arms to South Africa. It is rather the opposite because Egypt's policy will remain firm in its resistance and rejection of racial discrimination.

3. Egypt had severed its relations with South Africa and it insists on this position and refuses to have any contact with the facist regime. It also has no interest in cooperating with this regime.

The French Foreign Ministry had issued a statement categorically denying this report.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL GIVES INTERVIEW TO AL-HAWADITH

LD151721 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 15 Feb 80 pp 20-24 LD

[Interview granted by Egyptian Prime Minister and Foreign Miniser Dr Mustafa Khalil to Salim al-Lawzi in Cairo--date not given]

[Text] I asked Dr Khalil: "What is your maximum hope for the autonomy negotiations with the brothers?"

Laughing, Dr Khalil said: "You mean the negotiations with the Israeli side?"

"Yes," I said.

[Answer] Egypt's viewpoint is based on the principle that the treaty between Egypt and Israel does not constitute a separate peace. This is a fundamental principle that can be achieved only if we laid down the basis for solving the Palestinian problem, which is the crux of the Middle East conflict. We are convinced that if Egypt leaves the Palestinian problem to be solved through the other Arab countries or through the PLO and Israel, it will not be solved, for a simple reason: First, both Israel and the PLO refuse to sit together and, therefore, recognize one another. The Cairo conference [proposed by As-Sadat but which failed to convene] is the best evidence of this. Second, we believe--and time has proved the correctness of our belief--that agreement among all the Arab countries on a method of solution is difficult if not impossible. This is proved by the fact that despite the resolutions of the Baghdad and Tunis summits and the Arab countries' boycott of Egypt, nobody offered a substitute for the Egyptian solution. President as-Sadat has reiterated more than once that if the Arabs offer an alternative solution then Egypt will be willing to join them.

[Question] The absence of a substitute for the Egyptian plan does not mean that your plan is acceptable.

[Answer] This is correct, but does this mean that we should leave the Palestinian problem without a solution, as some Arab leaders have said? They said: Let us leave it for 10 or 20 years.

[Question] Sir, if the Palestinians from the extreme right to the extreme left have rejected the Camp David agreement, doesn't this total Palestinian rejection put the subject of autonomy talks out of the question? Also, why don't you let go of the negotiations and solve your problems with the Arab countries, at least with the moderate ones?

[Answer] Our national responsibility prevents us from doing so. Anybody who studies the situation in the West Bank and Gaza and knows closely how Israel is trying with all means to annex the West Bank to the Israeli entity would realize that time will not be in favor of the Palestinian problem if the solution is delayed 10 or 15 years. Can we respond to the call that says: "Egypt, hands off, and don't speak for the Palestinians"? We say that we are not speaking on behalf of the Palestinians but are trying to provide the means that would enable the Palestinians to sit and talk with the Israelis. We absolutely are not talking on behalf of the Palestinians nor are we trying to specify anything for them. We are only seeking to remove the military rule and replace it by a civilian rule based on elections; a fully qualified rule for a period of 5 years. During the first 3 years there will be negotiations with the Israeli side, with the Egyptian, U.S. and Jordanian sides, if the latter so wishes, participating. [paragraph continues]

Afterward, the matter will be put to the Palestinian people, who will have the right to veto what was agreed upon. This is the Egyptian plan. I really would like to ask: Where is the blame? If the blame is in Camp David, then it is based on Resolutions 242 and 338. We know the shortcomings of these resolutions. This was what we tried to make up for in the Camp David agreements.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, even if you succeeded in convincing the Israelis to adopt your views on autonomy, this autonomy is rejected by the Palestinians from the extreme right to the extreme left, from those supporting King Husayn to those supporting the PLO and even those reckoned to be pro-U.S. and in touch with its consulate in Jerusalem--they all have rejected the Camp David agreement on autonomy. You might say that the PLO has intimidated them. 'Aziz Shihadah is not pro-PLO and is not afraid of it. He is a lawyer for the U.S. Embassy. He told Atherton, the present U.S. ambassador in Cairo and previously President Carter's envoy, that the "Camp David agreement is rejected." When Atherton asked him what the alternative is, Shihadah replied: "Give us a document or a statement recognizing our right to self-determination, even if after 10 or 20 years, and we are ready to accept. There is not a single provision for self-determination in Camp David.

[Answer] Who will give the Palestinians a document or a statement recognizing their right to self-determination? If such a decision is issued by the United States, it will not be binding. If it is to be issued by the United Nations, another resolution must be submitted asking it to recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination, which would mean the establishment of a Palestinian state. Will Israel accept such a resolution before the Palestinians recognize it and the possibility of coexisting with it and accepting normal relations with it as we in Egypt did? Even if--and I say if--a resolution is issued recognizing the Palestinians' right to self-determination conditional upon the Palestinians' recognition of the Israeli entity or the State of Israel, how far is it possible to implement it from a position of enmity between the Israelis and the Palestinians? If it is required merely to issue a resolution to be added to the scores of resolutions that Israel has not implemented, then Egypt has no objection.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, the Saudis last summer were able to obtain from President Carter a semipromise to amend Resolution 242. You were aware of this. Andrew Young took a move in order to agree with the Arab ambassadors and the PLO representative at the United Nations on the text of the resolution. But the Israeli intelligence discovered the secret U.S. endeavor. Begin then stood up to say: "I will accept no more than Camp David." President as-Sadat then joined him, saying: "I don't understand why they want to amend Resolution 242. The Camp David agreement is more than enough."

[Answer] Things were not as you put it. When we were informed of the matter (which envoy Strauss had put to the Egyptians), we said: We have no objection to issuing such a resolution. We made it a condition that the timing should be suitable, that is, there should be a prior agreement among the parties to accept it so that it would not be like the other resolutions that have not been implemented. The UN resolutions are not binding. Is it required merely to obtain a resolution and then sit and wait without having the power to implement it? When the draft resolution was put to the United Nations [Egyptian ambassador] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid stood up and supported it, but we found out later that there was no prior agreement between the parties to accept it. [paragraph continues]

This was what prompted President as-Sadat to say that the Camp David agreement is adequate. After we transfer the powers of the military governor and his civilian administration to the Palestinian autonomy authority and the Israelis withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the matter will be put to the Palestinians. Is this not the right to self-determination? But supposing Egypt responded to the call "Hands off the Palestinian problem because the Arabs will obtain a UN resolution," what would be the result?

[Question] What?

[Answer] The problem would undoubtedly be deadlocked. This was what prompted us to say that our responsibility toward the Palestinian people is historical and therefore it prompts us to continue the negotiations in order to build a dialog bridge between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

[Question] What if the Palestinians refuse such a dialog?

[Answer] They are free, but we must do our duty toward them. I say very frankly and with confidence that we accept nothing less than what is provided for in the Camp David agreement. The heads of states' signatures are supposed to be respected. The agreement provides for the full transfer of powers to the Palestinians as well as for certain security measures for Israel. The committee consisting of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the United States is supposed to implement the agreement, just like the committees that were set up to supervise the transfer of powers in countries which were under trusteeship.

[Question] Why should the United Nations not be the trustee?

[Answer] Is it better to get caught up in the UN whirlpool, the Soviet veto and other problems, or to set up a committee which will represent some sort of liaison between the stronger side, which is Israel, and the weaker side, which is the Palestinians, whom we want to help to stand on their own feet? If we reach an agreement which we consider achieves the Palestinian people's aspirations and the Palestinians reject it, they are free to do so.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, there are two concepts for the Camp David agreement: the Egyptian concept and the Israeli concept. If you failed to make the Israelis adopt the Egyptian concept, what would the alternative be? Our history with Israel proves to us that it has always succeeded in dictating its own concept of UN resolutions and not ours, the Arabs. In Resolution 242 they concentrated on the issue of peace and ignored the issue of withdrawal. Now in the Camp David agreement they are concentrating on the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the normalization of relations and forgetting the autonomy. If you failed to obtain from the Israelis what they should give, what will you do? Do you have any other option?

[Answer] There is no doubt that in the Camp David agreement, as in all other agreements, there is room for disagreement. But this agreement must be taken as a whole. The Israeli side cannot take a clause, interpret it as it likes and say that this clause is separate from the rest of the agreement. The Camp David agreement is a comprehensive framework with specific principles that cannot be separated from one another. When the negotiations on the agreement between us and the Israelis faltered for 4 months--and the 3 months during which agreement was supposed to be reached had passed because the Egyptian side was insisting on implementing its viewpoint--the Israeli side, until the last day when the agreement was signed in Washington, was insisting on introducing amendments. [paragraph continues]

This is natural; we must not forget that there are two different stands between us and Israel: we the owners of the occupied territories are trying to end this occupation without war, while the other side persistently believes that there is no reason to give up such land without a price. "By God, I am not going to implement the UN resolutions." Israel had declared such a stand scores of times. We used to tell it that there is an international law that should be respected, that the establishment of peace in the Middle East is much more important than Israeli occupation of any land, and that occupation does not last. The 1973 war has proved that it cannot hold on to the land forever and that occupation does not last. But ending occupation cannot be achieved by driving Israelis into the sea but rather through dealing with the status quo in accordance with the UN resolutions and seeking a practical solution, and not through rejection that leads to freezing the problem and consequently losing it.

[Question] Are you optimistic about reaching what you want through this method of negotiations with Israel?

[Answer] Let me tell you very honestly--as I have come back from the negotiations a few days ago--that the problem is difficult and needs effort and time. But my impression is that results are possible.

[Question] Possible? Do you bet on this, doctor?

[Answer] No, no betting. I say that it is possible to attain results.

[Question] Before the month of May, as the agreement provides?

[Answer] There are two possibilities: Either we will not reach an agreement at the end of May, in which case alternatives must be proposed [sentence incomplete]

[Question] What are these alternatives?

[Answer] I can say nothing about them now. We are doing all we can, with the help of intervention by the American side, to bring the sides closer in order to reach agreement before 26 May.

[Question] Are you so optimistic?

[Answer] I am not pessimistic. I believe it is possible to reach some sort of agreement. There will be some critical matters that need to be put to a summit conference. The question here is: "Will the U.S. elections allow a summit among us, the Americans and the Israelis?"

[Question] What is the concept of sovereignty provided for in the Camp David agreement? Begin adheres to Israel's right to keep the West Bank and Gaza, saying that autonomy applies to the inhabitants and not to the land. When Carter extracted from him a provision recognizing the Palestinians' right in return, he obtained from Carter a letter saying that those intended are the Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza, that is, just like the Palestinian Jews. [According to Begin] "you call it Palestine, we call it Eretz Israel, or the land of Israel." Autonomy as understood by the Israelis must be within the State of Israel. Anything that might lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state is rejected. The military authorities are the source of power.

[Answer] We absolutely refuse such an interpretation. When the Israeli side submitted a memorandum saying that autonomy is for individuals and not for the land, I said that this is rejected. Even discussing it is rejected. If this had been the intention at Camp David, there would have been a provision saying that autonomy is for the inhabitants and not for the land. Moreover, is there such a thing as autonomy for the land? Autonomy is always for the individual, owner of the will. Autonomy absolutely does not mean the land, or the animal or the inanimate. There is no land that has autonomy. Autonomy means control of all the natural resources, including the land on which the people live. This is the meaning of sovereignty.

[Question] What is the idea of restricting the right of election to the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza?

[Answer] There are three types of Palestinians: Palestinians residing in the West Bank and Gaza, Palestinians living abroad and retaining their Palestinian nationality, and--the third type--Palestinians who obtained other nationalities. The right of voting has been restricted to the resident Palestinians. When I talk about those who have a right to take part in elections and in practicing full autonomy, I mean the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza. As for Israel's claim that autonomy is for the inhabitants and not the land, it is an interpretation contrary to every international custom. The Israelis cannot submit a single theory proving their claim. This is in addition to the fact that this interpretation is contrary to the UN resolutions that provide for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

[Question] But they do not recognize the West Bank and Gaza as occupied territories but liberated territories, "Eretz Israel".

[Answer] Historical right is a rejected theory. I refused even to discuss the matter at the first meeting I held with the Israeli side. To say that the West Bank and Gaza are called Judea and Samaria--by God you are free to call them whatever you like in your language. Such naming does not give you any historical or legal right. Resolution 242 is clear about the need for withdrawal from the occupied territories.

[Question] What about the settlements? Is insistence on colonization an indication of good will?

[Answer] I have never said that this is an easy problem. There is, however, a more important problem than the problem of settlement. The number of settlers is 15,000 to 16,000. But Israel believes that the importance of settlement lies in its symbol. The symbol that this land is the land of greater Israel, or "Eretz Israel." In other words, the Israeli has the right to go to such land, to build on it and to link this settlement to security reasons. The problem is, what will happen if the situation remains as it is for another 20 years?

[Question] Do you hope that the settlements and the symbols in the West Bank will be dismantled?

[Answer] This depends on the relations to be established in the future between the Palestinian entity and Israel. If we imagine that the West Bank and Gaza will become one single political entity, there is the problem of the link between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. There is also the problem of an air corridor. Where will it be? There is a state of war between Jordan and Israel and the new situation will not end this state of war. [paragraph continues]

There is also the problem of ports for transportation and communications abroad. There is also the problemof water to be dealt with. The level of water in the West Bank is higher than it is in Israel. Which means that the number of wells to be allowed to be drilled in the West Bank would affect the output of water going to Israel. The water supply of the State of Israel now is 1.6 billion cubic meters, of which 400 million go for drinking and industrial use and the rest for agriculture. It is estimated that 500 million cubic meters of water come to Israel from subterranean seepage from the West Bank. Israel's plan, up to the year 2000, is to increase the water level or output. Therefore I would say that there is a real problem, called the water problem. Israel has drilled deep wells in some of the settlements which have deprived the Arab farmers' shallow wells of water. This situation has forced many Arab farmers to abandon their lands and to go to work inside Israel as industrial workers--a proletariat that possesses nothing. The evacuation is continuing.

[Question] That is a process of complete evacuationcof the inhabitants?

[Answer] Yes. I must study all these problems before going to the negotiations because I cannot sit with the Israelis without knowing all the details of the situations on which we are going to negotiate. It is Israel which determines the kinds of crops the farmers should grow and which gives them permits to transport their crop inside Israel. Israel has a complete plan for agricultural expansion. For example, it is now expanding the export of avocados and, therefore, it decides where avocado should be grown. Ari'el Sharon (Israeli agriculture minister) told me that one feddan of avocado yields over $2,000. When Israel says that it wants to form a committee to study economic affairs, what is its aim? Its aim is to tie the economy of the West Bank to its own so that it will not rival its own economy. Therefore, we are faced with a big challenge. Must I wait for 10 or 20 years until the problem becomes impossible to solve?

[Question] How much hope is there of solving it now?

[Answer] We are making the utmost efforts to solve it because it cannot be deferred.

[Question] Dr Khalil, it is observed that Egypt has two trends: the hardline trend of the [foreign] Ministry which is studying the issue in all its aspects, and the presidential trend which is adopting stands referred to by President as-Sadat's friends as chivalrous. There is nothing about oil in the Camp David agreements, yet you have given Israel 2 million tons while the wells which you recovered from Israel produce no more than 1 million tons. You have given Israel 2 million tons at prices lower than thos of the free market.

[Answer] Regarding the first part of the question on the difference between the presidential method and that of the Foreign [Ministry], I am really surprised by what is being reported about this subject abroad. Is it possible for a country to have two policies--a presidential policy and another policy for the [Foreign] Ministry? Even the Egyptian Constitution does not permit this.

[Question] But the difference is obvious.

[Answer] There is a sequence of attitudes and roles. Let me explain this to you. Let us take the subject of the normalization of relations. What has been accomplished so far is not regarded as normalization of relations but an opening of the borders. The normalization of relations requires the conclusion of agreements in the various spheres--the economic, cultural, and information spheres--just like the agreements that are usually concluded among states. So far, no agreement has been concluded between us and Israel on any of these subjects. When these agreements are concluded, they must be referred to the People's Assembly according to the Constitution. Therefore it is wrong to say that the normalization is being carried out in a hurried and chivalrous manner different from the Foreign Ministry's plans. When we call for opening the borders, certain measures are required, for how can a citizen from the other side be accepted? Will he be accepted without a passport? Will he be accepted with a passport provided he obtains a visa on the border or does he have to obtain a visa from the consulate? There is a difference between the two cases. At the consulate, certain investigations are made before granting the visa. But when a person arrives at the airport and asks for a visa, there will be no time to investigate whether the visitor is persona grata or not. This is where the role of the Foreign Ministry becomes obvious because it enforces the controls according to Egyptian law. What causes confusion is the fact that while the ministry is keenly trying to enforce these controls, the people think that the Foreign Ministry has deferred the implementation of what the presidency has announced about the opening of the borders between the two countries.

[Question] What about the operation of the airlines, did not the president agree with Begin on this and did not both of them fly over Sinai to inaugurate the air corridor?

[Answer] The charting of the air corridor is one thing and the operation of the airlines is another thing. The air corridor is connected with the ground defense facilities. The corridor between us and them was a long one. What has happened is that the corridor has been recharted in a manner that will shorten the flying time by 20 minutes. But has any airline been put into operation so far? Has a trade or cultural agreement been concluded? Is this normalization?

[Question] Then, when will normalization take place?

[Answer] When all the agreements are concluded, as is the usual practice among states.

[Question] And the oil?

[Answer] There is a very clear Egyptian-Israeli agreement which stipulates that Israel will buy oil from us according to the Egyptian law. We do not sell oil in the free market (spot market).

[Question] At OPEC prices?

[Answer] Neither at OPEC prices. Let me explain this to you. I have read all that has been published about this subject, particular by AL-HAWADITH. On the free market you take your oil in a tanker to the port and say: I have so many thousand tons, come and bid for the stuff. We do not follow this method. On the other hand, we are not a member of OPEC and, therefore, we are not bound by OPEC prices.

[Question] How then does Egypt fix the price of its oil?

[Answer] We export the oil surplus and import products instead. We select the crude oil--heavy or light oil--and assess its grade (A.P.I.) and its prices and then put it up for auction by the companies, because Egyptian law prohibits the sale of oil to states. Furthermore, I do not sell all the oil I have to a single company. It is in my interest that I should have many customers, giving half a million tons to one company, a quarter of a million to another and a million to yet another. I fix the quantity. The last auction we had was in November. Therefore I sold oil to the companies which, in their turn, sold it to Israel. I did not transport the oil from 'Alma Oilfield straight to Israel, as you have written. The output of 'Alma Oilfield was between 32,000 and 37,000 barrels when we took it over. We have since reduced its production to 20,000 barrels daily--equivalent to 1 million tons [annually].

[Question] Why then did you promise to give Israel 2 million tons?

[Answer] We have never promised. Israel was given the quantity on the basis of preferential treatment and through four companies which won the bid. Each company received half a million tons. This preferential treatment, as the president has said, is for 1 year only and at market prices.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, is not the normalization of relations the responsibility of the Foreign Ministry?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] Why then was Defense Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali assigned to carry out this task with his Israeli counterpart 'Ezer Weizman? Does this not mean that the Foreign Ministry's powers are now shared between the presidency and yourself, in your capacity as foreign minister, and the Defense Ministry?

[Question] Let me explain this point to you because questions have actually been raised about it and its clarification is useful. First of all, I am prime minister as well as foreign minister. In my capacity as prime minister I can assign the operation of normalization to any of the existing ministries. Normalization is not the sole responsibility of the Foreign Ministry because it involves economic, cultural and military questions. About 6 months ago committees were formed in all the ministries to discuss the steps of normalization. We now have complete reports on normalization procedures. We do not start in a vacuum. A large section of our relations with Israel at present involves the restoration of the land, the airports, the airbases and airport administrations to us. Except for Cairo International Airport, all other airports are under the army's control. This is why we assigned General Hasan 'Ali to deal with 'Ezer Weizman on the subjects falling under their jurisdictions. The agreement reached will be submitted to the cabinet to allow a decision on it to be issued.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, there is another issue that is much talked about today by people in Egypt and the Arab world.

[Answer] What is it?

[Question] The story of the Nile waters and the question of supplying Israel with these waters. The Egyptian lawyers association was the last organ to rebel against this decision in the resolution it adopted last month in which it declared its complete rejection of having the Nile waters offered to Israel in any form. Lufti al-Khuli, former personal friend of President as-Sadat, also published an article in the National Grouping Party's bulletin under the title: "The Nile Is the Homeland," so how can we relinquish the homeland--that is, the Nile waters?

[Answer] The statement made by President as-Sadat on this subject was published in OCTOBER magazine. What he meant was that, in the service of the Palestine cause, he was prepared to go as far as to send the Nile waters to Jerusalem.

[Question] What Jerusalem?

[Answer] East Jerusalem, of course. East Jerusalem which is inhabited by the Palestinians. The president wanted to show the extent of his determination to resolve the Palestinian issue. Despite the fact that Egypt does not have surplus Nile waters, he said: I am prepared to give it to the Palestinians.

[Question] Are you covering up, or what? The president had clearly said during his visit to Haifa that he would give Nile waters to the Negev.

[Answer] I do not deny this. But his talk after that was about Jerusalem and he said [that the water will be sent] in bottles. Can water go in bottles?

[Question] Certainly, the Lebanese "Sahhah" waters are sold in bottles and so are the "Evian" and "Vichy" waters.

Prime Minister Khalil laughed and then said: "Can the water that is sent in bottles irrigate the Negev Desert? As I told you, the whole story was a declaration of goodwill to resolve the Palestinian issue, whatever the sacrifice to Egypt."

[Question] Dr Khalil, do you have the right to alone dispose of the Nile waters? What is the attitude of the states through whose territory the Nile waters flow? Will they agree? Can you take a unilateral decision on this matter?

[Answer] We are well aware that agreements governing disposal of the Nile waters exist between us and the states of the Nile basin. We are also aware that agricultural expansion in Egypt requires water. We are aware too that the increase in the Egyptian population makes us need every drop of the river's water. We know that if the Nile waters go to Israel, that would constitute a violation of international agreements from which there is no escape. All these facts are known to us and to the president. When he addresses public opinion and says that he is prepared to do so and so, he means to show goodwill, but it does not mean that a plan has been drawn up and is being implemented.

[Question] Dr Khalil, by God, you have gone very far to show goodwill toward Israel. You have broken the psychological barrier with Israel to establish in its place a psychological barrier with the Arabs. In the first place, it is not easy for the Arab citizen to show this much goodwill toward Israel, especially because the Israelis do not reciprocate any of your goodwill, whether on the question of the settlements or even at the autonomy talks. Do you not notice that estrangement is increasing between you and the Arabs day after day?

[Answer] I know that there are Arab fears but I do not know on what basis, frankly. If the Arabs think that the Egyptians in government are so ignorant and powerless and do not care for their country's interests, or the interests of the Arab countries, the Palestinians and the Arab nation, then this is an unacceptable injustice. In Washington we rejected the letter which Cyrus Vance presented to guarantee the implementation of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement. We also refused to place our obligations toward Israel above our obligations toward the Arab states. Therefore, why the fears?

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, the atmosphere of the dialog is, first of all, an unhealthy atmosphere. Second, it was you who took the initiative and you had guarantees, reassurances, or calculations which no one else but you knew about. Naturally, therefore, those who did not know, and not those who knew, have the right to get irritated. Third, the president has been constantly repeating that the initiative was greater [in scope] than the area and this makes it incumbent upon you [the Arabs] to deal with it as such.

[Answer] When the president said that he took the initiative upon Egypt's decision, he did not wish to involve any other state in the responsibility for the decision. He explained in his recent speech that, if he had presented the matter to the Arab states, they would have rejected it. Let us talk frankly. If what is required is that we should freeze and not move, present no alternative and be content with slogans alone--and when Egypt presents a solution, that solution is condemned--this means that we would continue to revolve in the vicious circle in which we have been revolving for the past 30 years. Some Arab rulers, if not most of them, were not content to reject the initiative but also refused to listen to any explanation for it. And even if they heard it, they would not believe it. When we say that this or that did not happen, they say: Indeed, it did happen and you are lying to us. I read the Arabic newspapers every day; is the method used by them tantamount to opposition or is it vilification, accusations of treason, and distortion of the facts?

[Question] But the Egyptian opposition inside Egypt is no less vehement in its attacks on the Camp David agreements and the policy of peace with Israel. If you want praise, you have your official news media which never fail. But you have no right to ask the non-Egyptian to say any less than your own opposition is saying. Do you not recognize the freedom of the opposition in Egypt?

Dr Khalil laughed and then said: "The opposition enjoys complete freedom and even more. The National Grouping bulletin has directly accused me of taking advantage of my influence. This accusation was then taken up by the newspaper AL-'ALAM which is published by the Liberal Party. Despite the fact that I immediately asked the People's Assembly to form a committee to investigate this matter and insisted that the opposition be represented in it, you can wonder if the newspaper was closed."

[Question] Why was the case put to the People's Assembly and not to the courts?

[Answer] If I had gone to the attorney general and then to the court it would, like any other case, have taken 2 or 3 years. But I wanted a quick decision on the matter because it is a question of the government's integrity and reputation. The committee adopted a unanimous decision that all that had been published was lies and falsehoods. Does not the fact that the newspaper was not confiscated indicate that Egypt is more democratic than any other Arab country?

[Question] The lack of democratic virtues in the Arab world does not justify failings in Egypt.

[Answer] I do not claim that there are not journalistic or nonjournalistic virtues. I am not concerned with the methods pursued in the other Arab countries. Every country and every people rule themselves the way they like. I am confining my remarks to two points: Is the freedom enjoyed by the Arab press greater than the freedom enjoyed by the Egyptian press? The opposition press is so free that it can question the prime minister's integrity.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, maybe it is premature to discuss the reason for the collapse of Arab-Egyptian relations, but I can assure you that there is nobody in the Arab world that wishes the break with Egypt to continue.

[Answer] Who started the break, Mr Salim?

[Question] The one who took the [peace] initiative individually.

[Answer] Have we reached the point at which they can judge the outcome of this initiative?

[Question] Doctor, this is the role of the opposition. Why don't you look at the Arab opposition the same way you look at the opposition of [Socialist Party leader] Ibrahim Shukri or of [Nationalist Progressive Unionist Grouping leader] Khalid Muhyi ad-Din or any of the others whom you allow to oppose you in Egypt?

[Answer] Ibrahim Shukri says he approves of the treaty.

[Question] Khalid Muhyi ad-Din does not approve.

[Answer] Well, his nonapproval does not go as far as the Baghdad resolutions which you know about.

[Question] When I am talking with you, Doctor, I am not proceeding from the basis of the Arab position, which is difficult to defend. There are problems, vilifications and accusations between certain Arab countries more than there is between you and them. I am speaking to you on the basis of Arab reality.

In your talk with me I would like you not to address the Arab rulers, because I do not represent any of them. What I wish is that what you say should be addressed to the Arab conscience, for it is required of the one who has taken the initiatives to be up to it. Abuse is of no use. Dialog must be healthy and untarnished, just as it is now.

Dr Khalil, upset for the first time during the interview, said: "We are prepared for any dialog, but I am not responsible for any misunderstanding of my behavior. I am not responsible if all that I say is not believed and all that I do is construed as ill will."

[Question] I believe you will be judged by the outcome of your negotiations with the Israelis on the autonomy issue. Until such time as you reach a result or a framework that you would accept--and which the Palestinians have the right to refuse, for they are free--what is needed at this moment is only patience, forbearance and gentle talk.

Resting his head on the back of his chair and closing his eyes, Dr Khalil said: "This is exactly what we want from the Arabs: patience, forbearance and gentle talk. The Arab countries can play an auxiliary role to ours despite their disapproval. This is a national cause in which roles must be distributed. But now, as you said, there must be patience, forbearance and gentle talk."

AL-AHRAM DISCUSSES RECENT 'BREAD CRISIS'

LD181235 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Feb 80 pp 1, 3 LD

[Chief Editor Ahmad Nafi' article: "The Bread Crisis and the Lessons Learned From It"]

[Excerpts] Last week's bread crisis should not pass without a probing of its significance and a clear defining of the lessons drawn from it. We may ask the people to be patient while any problem they are facing or suffering from is resolved, but we must not accept encroachment on the right of individuals to obtain bread for themselvs and their children.

We must immediately say, before anything else, that the people were once again the heros in this crisis. The people did not respond to attempts at incitement; they stood against those with selish interests in a peaceful manner and rejected the pressure attempts by some to increase both legitimate and illegitimate profits. And, finally, it was the people's stand that led the bakery owners to change their attitude. All these stands by the people relfect confidence in the decisions made to insure that subsidies reach the deserving ones, to prevent large profits from being made at the people's expanse and to stop the misuse of bread. With all of this being in the public interest, the people accepted it and responded to it.

There is no doubt that the bread crisis has confirmed for the government the soundness of the line it is pursuing; namely, to switch to the use of automatic bakers as quickly as possible. The government, which subsidizes bread to the tune of 700 million pounds, will not hesitate to increase this amount in order to install such new bakeries, which would prevent black-marketeering in flour and save large sums of money. Bread is not a matter that can be left to the whims of individuals or be allowed to be used as a means of pressure. We are not saying this in order to fight against the private sector--which produces 90 percent of the market consumption needs. But perhaps bakery owners will now agree to participate in joint projects and contribute to the capital of the automatic bakery companies so that bread can be produced in a more hygenic way.

AR-RA'Y NOTES DISSENT IN AS-SADAT REGIME

JN150930 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Feb 80 pp 1, 12 JN

[Text] Cairo--Yesterday As-Sadat ordered his government to conduct speedy investigations on the refusal by some official government parties to deal with Israel. An Egyptian Government source said that the Egyptian television and radio and MENA have refused to conduct any dialog with the enemy. Rather, the source added, they decided to maintain their relations with the Arab states.

The source added that the Israeli Government contacted these organizations in order to urge them to open offices in occupied Palestine or to choose their correspondents from there. The source pointed out, however, that the organizations rejected these proposals.

The same source added that several of these organizations' employees were summoned to the Egyptian intelligence centers for questioning, so that their real stands toward the enemy government could be determined, stands that are considered to follow a course contrary to that of the Egyptian state.

The national house for the distribution of Egyptian papers and magazines in Cairo was surprised to receive a cable from the distributor of Egyptian papers in the West Bank, asking them to stop sending papers since the Arab citizens have stopped buying them and are, in fact, burning them.

The Israeli papers are being displayed in the hotels, particularly the Sheraton, since a large number of Egyptian sellers refuse to distribute them.

The Egyptian Reporters Union Council had earlier refused to exchange Israeli and Egyptian papers. The union also refused to receive any member of the Israeli reporters union.

It was announced in Cairo that the Israeli Embassy will officially open its doors on Sunday (17 February), when the Israeli flag will be hoisted at the Israeli Embassy building in Ad-Duqqi and the embassy staff will begin to receive those who wish to submit any applications requiring the assistance of the embassy officials.

Stringent security measures have been taken for fear of a mass uprising by the Egyptian people, who have expressed their disapproval. Signs of anger on the faces of the sons of these people have begun to increase now that the embassy opening date is approaching.

In a very secretive official statement sent to the security offices of all ministries and government circles on the normalization of relations with Israel, the Egyptian Interior Ministry pointed to the gravity of the coming steps and events in the normalization of relations, particularly following next Sunday. The statement added that the coming stage requires total alertness and caution. The Ministry of Interior called for implementation of procedures that would maintain security and protection under all circumstances. The statement concluded that the Ministry of Interior stressed the need to take the utmost precautions to ensure that all fire extinguishing equipment is sound and to avoid negligence.

GUIDANCE COUNCIL ESTABLISHED FOR NEWS MEDIA

JN201541 Amman JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpt] Amman, 20 February--Information Minister Dr Sa'id at-Tall announced today the establishment of a "National Guidance Council," a new system for the ministry established for the first time in the history of the information field in Jordan. This council's basic task will be to work out a comprehensive national guidance policy underlining the basic role of the local media.

In a statement to JNA, the information minister said that the basic aim in the establishment of this council is to eliminate any contradictions and to create coordination among the various public and private sector media organizations and the establishments responsible for education, teaching and culture.

Dr at-Tall added that the council's tasks also include the presentation of comprehensive proposals and recommendations that will form the basis of the country's media policy. This will be achieved through formulating the general foundations of media policy and adopting the necessary means for implementing it, in accordance with the principles and objectives specified by the Ministry of Information.

The council's tasks also include establishing the responsibilities and duties of official and unofficial media organizations and presenting recommendations to guarantee coordination and cooperation among these organizations. The council will also be responsible for the preparation of special studies on media policy in various media areas and for the formation of specialized media committees, to prepare studies and recommendations on media policy. In addition, the council will prepare draft laws and all media systems that will make it possible for all organizations to exercise freedom with a sense of responsibility.

Information Minister Dr Sa'id at-Tall, who will be the chairman of the council, said that the council will comprise the following: the minister of education; the minister of awqaf, islamic affairs and holy places; the minister of culture and youth; one of the presidents of the two universities--each to succeed the other every other year--and the under secretary of the Ministry of Information. It will also include a representative of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the journalists syndicate representative, a chief editor of a daily newspaper--one every other year--and three educated Jordanians who have keen interest in national guidance affairs. The council will meet regularly once a month, as well as whenever necessary.

PAPERS COMMENT ON JORDANIAN-ROMANIAN TALKS

JN211107 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Under the headline, "Husayn's Visit to Romania," the paper AD-DUSTUR comments: His Majesty King Husayn's current visit to Romania and meeting with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu have special significance at this particular stage due to Romania's independent role regarding the two international camps on the one hand and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the other.

In addition to the need to develop the links of friendship and cooperation between Jordan and Romania, relations which have existed for some time, the current stage makes it incumbent upon the Jordanian and Romanian leaders to review possible ways to emerge from the present state of stagnation and languor and establish the requirements for a new international initiative based on a European view because the European Continent's stand on the Middle East conflict and recognition of the Palestinians rights is to a certain extent balanced. No doubt that our leadership is aware of the Romanian president's beliefs and viewpoints and the efforts he exerted in order to solve the conflict in the region in a just and comprehensive way and to find ways to reach a possible and logical settlement to this conflict. Thus, His Majesty King Husayn now has the opportunity to review all the stands of the sides concerned in the conflict, particularly those positions ignored by the Camp David accords, and the positions of the international powers having an influence on the Middle East conflict.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: For the Arab nation, Romania is an important state as far as Arab initiatives in Europe are concerned because Romania is no less important than other European states, which have begun to look for a solution to the tension prevailing in the region as a result of the increasing Israeli intransigence.

Under the headline, "The Jordanian-Romanian Talks," the paper AR-RA'Y says in its editorial: The Husayn-Ceausescu talks are of special significance due to Jordan's place in the Arab arena and Romania's concern over the Middle East issue. Thus, it is natural for these talks to include the foundations of the Jordanian stand, the Arab viewpoints and developments relating to the issue, particularly the Israeli settlement practices in the occupied Arab territory and the autonomy project, which Israel, Egypt and the United States are negotiating, despite the Palestinian people's objection to and rejection of such a project. The talks will also include a discussion of the Romanian viewpoint and bilateral relations. The paper adds: The talks being held now in Bucharest will not ignore the current international developments and their effect on the region and the Jordanian stand, which is concerned over keeping Jordan far from the conflict between the two camps, a stand which we believe the Romanian side understands completely.

The paper wonders whether President Ceausescu has a certain vision of removing the Middle East issue from the Camp David dilemma and returning it to the sound path under the international umbrella, particularly since the Arab stand, which adheres to the principle of noninvolvement in such a dilemma, is a firm and known pan-Arab stand. AR-RA'Y concludes: If there is a vision of this kind, then it is natural for it to be given special attention in the Jordanian-Romanian talks in light of Jordan's commitment to the pan-Arab stand, which stipulates first and foremost saving the Palestinian issue and enabling the Palestinian people to regain their land and determine their fate on this land.

OPENING OF ISRAEL'S CAIRO EMBASSY DRAWS PRESS COMMENT

JN190946 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Feb 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Today's papers comment on the continued and irresponsible Egyptian challenge to the Arab nation. President as-Sadat yesterday insisted on challenging the Arab will and the will of the Egyptian people through the hoisting of the Israeli flag on Arab territory for the first time in history.

This occurs at a time when the cities in the West Bank and Gaza are witnessing massive demonstrations against the Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

Under the headline "The Three Scenes in the Day of Sadness," the newspaper AR-RA'Y writes: Yesterday three scenes were displayed to the Arab citizen. The first scene was in Amman, the second in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the third in Cairo. In Amman, the National Consultative Council listened to a statement by the prime minister in which he expressed the government's determination to forge ahead with adopting all political means and methods to confront the persistant Israeli policy of establishing settlements in Hebron and to explain the issue of Israeli aggression in international forums.

In the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the occupation authorities imposed house arrest on the mayors. By doing so they used force to prevent the convening of the national Palestinian conference which was scheduled to be held today at Al-Aqsa Mosque to express solidarity with the people in Hebron and to reiterate the determination of the people in the occupied territories to resist the establishment of settlements.

In Cairo, the Zionist entity flag was officially hoisted on its embassy there, while the embassy staff sang the national anthem. Female Arab students in a neighboring building cried. Egyptian citizens described yesterday as a day of sadness.

Taken as a whole, these three scenes indicate many things. Among these indications is Jordan's consistant stand and adherence to the Palestinian cause and its determination to work seriously on behalf of it. The picture also reflected the strong unity between the people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the continued, daring struggle they are waging against occupation. At the same time, the picture reflected the dangerous trap the Egyptian regime was caught in through signing a treaty with the aggressive Israeli.

These three scenes which were displayed yesterday should form a new incentive for unified Arab action to exert more effort on behalf of the issue of destiny. The hoisting of the Israeli flag in the Egyptian sky should not weaken our nation. The Arabs should take the time factor into consideration and benefit from moral themes. Sadness should not hinder them.

Under the headline "The Star of David in the Sky of Cairo," AL-AKHBAR says: While the Israeli flag was being slowly hoisted in the sky of Cairo yesterday, Cairo looked like a city which had given in after long resistance--handed over to the leader of the invading forces by its sons. Millions of Egyptians were recollecting the past 30 years of struggle and sacrifice. The sons, fathers and mothers of martyrs were bitterly wondering: Is this the end of Egypt?

Reports from Israel talk about a new plan to be proposed by As-Sadat to his friends Menahem Begin and Jimmy Carter at a forthcoming summit. He will propose placing the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the tripartite supervision of Egypt, the United States and Israel. The supervision is to last 5 years, at the end of which the fate of the Arab Palestinian people will be determined.

We ask: What right do Begin, Carter and As-Sadat have to determine the destiny of Palestine and its Arab Palestinian people, even for 5 years? What has As-Sadat left for the Arabs to say with regard to the future of part of the Arab homeland and part of the Arab nation living in this homeland?

FORCES COMMAND COUNCIL MEETS, ISSUES STATEMENT

NC182025 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 18 Feb 80 NC

[18 February statement by the Lebanese Forces Command Council spokesman--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces Command Council held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of Bashir al-Jumayyil with all members attending. The Command Council adopted the following positions.

1. The Command Council shares the sorrow and grief of the families of the martyrs who, with their pure blood, irrigated the homeland so that Lebanon can remain a free and sovereign country. The Command Council also expresses its appreciation of and pride in the Lebanese resistance fighters who bravely resisted the barbaric attacks waged by the Syrian occupation army against the peaceful villages in the north. The Command Council sympathizes with the thousands of dispersed innocent people who were forced by Syria's savage action to leave their villages and homes.

2. The Command Council strongly denounces the official silence that prevailed among the responsible circles throughout the fighting, which resulted in 15,000 people being dispersed and entire villages being damaged. The Lebanese resistance knows how to expose such a plot of silence at the appropriate time and as the situation dictates.

3. Concerning reconciliation, the Command Council affirms that every proposed reconciliation plan while Lebanon is under the dual occupation of the Syrians and Palestinians is only an indirect attempt to strengthen Syrian domination over Lebanon.

BEIRUT REPORTS ON SECURITY SITUATION, ISRAELI OVERFLIGHT

NC201207 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Text] The Fu'ad Shihab Bridge road in Beirut continues to be closed due to sniper fire. Cautious calm still prevails in the commercial area and the traditional axes in Beirut. In southern Lebanon, Israeli military aircraft overflew the area about 1100 today. Ground resistance in the Tyre area opened fire on them. Tense calm prevails in the areas that have been the scene of artillery duels.

In the north calm prevails in the areas that experienced recent clashes. Efforts were concentrated on aiding evacuees in returning to their homes and aiding persons whose houses were damaged. Schools in these areas remain closed.

Voice of Lebanon Account

NC201257 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Since noon, the An-Nabatiyah area and other southern positions have been subjected to artillery shelling. The shelling is still going on. No details are available yet on casualties or damages in view of the fact that the shelling is still going on intermittently.

In Beirut armed Syrian and leftist gunmen fired several volleys in the direction of the port area, As-Sayfi and Ad-Dabbas. No casualties have been reported. The bridge connecting the eastern and western areas of Beirut remains closed after having been cut off in the middle of last week on account of leftist sniping in the vicinity of Fu'ad Shihab Bridge.

PRIME MINISTER READS GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT

JN182144 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly held a session at 1800 today to hear the government statement which was read by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

The prime minister said: The government assumed its tasks and responsibilities at an extremely critical stage which demands, more than at any time in the past, a firm and courageous tackling of the vital issues which concern the lives of the masses. The stage also demands readiness to confront the increasing dangers surrounding the area, which are placing the pan-Arab struggle before one of its most complex and difficult tasks.

Dr al-Kasm added: In view of the increasing tasks, there is no other means but the adoption of the revolutionary option in work, production, tackling the domestic situation and confronting outside dangers through the Syrian people's effective capabilities and firm and noble national determination to bring about a radical change and wage the struggle, inspired and guided by the political leadership's farsighted and comprehensive vision.

The government statement affirmed that the features of this stage emanate from the essential needs of the people, which the party leadership, the Central Command and the National Progressive Front have been tackling. Our cabinet will be responsible for responding to these needs by implementing action programs and priorities, the aim of which will be safeguarding the security of the state and society, guaranteeing the individual's freedom and dignity, implementing the principle of equal opportunities and consolidating the national unity of our popular and struggling masses.

The government statement defined Syria's Arab policy, which is based on the Ba'th Party's political program and the resolutions of the Seventh Regional Congress, which specified clear frameworks for the government. These frameworks will guide the government in the formulation of its stands and in the definition of its objectives in the Arab arena. These objectives are: continuing the pan-Arab struggle; seeking to entrench the unionist trend in the Arab homeland; continuing all efforts to strengthen Arab solidarity and joint Arab action in all fields to boost our struggle against Zionism and imperialism; continuing to shoulder the burden of Syria's pan-Arab responsibility in Lebanon, strengthening Lebanon's national unity and continuing to seek to restore security and stability in Lebanon; resisting all attempts to liquidate the Palestinian issue; backing the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in its capacity as the major base for resisting all the capitulatory conspiracies and the various challenges and for thwarting the treasonous treaty between the Egyptian regime and Israel and all its consequences; and continuing our commitment to the basic objective--namely, the liberation of all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

Referring to Syria's policy on the international level, the government statement said that this policy is based on continuing to strengthen and consolidate the nonalined movement, continuing to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation with the socialist countries--headed by the Soviet Union--in all fields and supporting national liberation movements throughout the world.

After speaking in detail on the government program concerning the steps related to internal organization and the economic policy, in which the public sector is playing a leading role in the agricultural, industrial and services fields, Dr al-Kasm said: In our program, we made it a point to choose what we can actually implement, what is related to vital issues, what is related to an economic strategy in the social structure and what can provide this country with the power and ability to confront the big challenges which surround it and this area.

The government statement stressed that all these programs, plans and objectives should be bolstered by the strength of the people. This strength springs from the individual's liberty, sense of dignity and confidence in himself and his state and in his national and pan-Arab role.

The prime minister said: Through our unity, brotherhood and sincerity, we will be worthy of a strong, productive and struggling homeland which does not bend or surrender.

At the end of the government statement, Dr al-Kasm asked the People's Assembly to discuss everything that came in the statement through this outlook and this national and pan-Arab trend so that cooperation will be the basis of the joint efforts and one of the values of our popular democratic system.

AS-SAFIR INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM

NC201058 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 16 Feb 80 pp 1, 4, 5 NC

[Text of AS-SAFIR correspondent Muwaffaq Madani interview with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus on 13 February]

[Excerpts] Question: Some believe that the decision to gather [the Syrian forces with the ADF in Beirut and its suburbs] was made to cover up certain events in the Middle East region, including Afghanistan, particularly considering your special relationship with Moscow, and that the decision was made after Gromyko visited Damascus.

Answer: I say again that our presence [in Lebanon] is connected with pan-Arab considerations and that any decision we adopt will be in the light of these considerations. We wish that Lebanon were able today rather than tomorrow to restore the national detente, strengthen its national unity and assume its national and pan-Arab responsibilities. Lebanon would then become a support for Syria as Syria is a support for Lebanon. Any action we take is dictated by the considerations of our pan-Arab interests in Syria, Lebanon and every other Arab country.

I reassert that Syria is eager to protect Lebanon, its security, stability and safety. These are the pan-Arab considerations which dictated our presence in Lebanon. When our brothers in Lebanon feel that they can assume such burdens without this help, we will have taken a big stride toward the realization of our pan-Arab goals.

Question: How do you explain the attitude of the United States, which has given you $5 million to help you fulfill your security role in Lebanon while on the other hand McHenry demanded, when he was in Cairo, that you withdraw from Lebanon?

Answer: First, this is incorrect. The United States does not give us any aid to fulfill our role in Lebanon. The United States takes a hostile stand on the pan-Arab policy which Syria is pursuing. The United States supports Israel and aggression. It gives military equipment and huge military aid to Israel. It is also the author of the Camp David philosophy. How can you imagine this state extending aid to Syria, which opposes the U.S. policy in the region? It is not true that there is U.S. aid to Syria in Lebanon or elsewhere.

In the past, the U.S. Government allocated some development aid to Syria but this aid was not extended because of the complications contingent on accepting it. It must be clear that any aid which was given or will be given to Syria from any state was not and will not be connected with Syria's policy or Syria's political decision.

Question: What about McHenry's demand that you withdraw from Lebanon?

Answer: The United States, as you know, steers the Camp David policy. Its acts to remove all obstacles to this policy. Due to the fact that the United States is playing such a role, it is natural that we should see or rather hear some American voices which try to detract from the importance of the pan-Arab role which Syria is playing in the Lebanese arena.

Anyway, such a statement is not surprising because some international circles hope that fighting and the civil war will resume in Lebanon. They believe that the resumption of the fighting in Lebanon would enable them to cover up "Camp David" as the "Sinai agreement" was covered.

Question: For some time now, the Lebanese have been feeling that the role of the Lebanese crisis in the Middle East arena has ended and that the centers of pressure in the Middle East have been redistributed. We have seen certain events take place in some Arab states and in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Do you believe that the Lebanese arena is still a candidate for explosive events of this kind?

Answer: As I have pointed out, the Camp David parties will naturally seek to create conditions which would enable them to implement the "Camp David" policy throughout the region. The creation of clashes or explosive situations in this or that part of the Arab homeland would undoubtedly help the "Camp David" parties implement their plans. The Lebanese arena is undoubtedly in the forefront of the Arab arena, where tampering could occur for several reasons:

1. The presence of the Israeli factor.

2. The lack of an agreement on a national detente formula.

3. The fact that the reconstruction of the Lebanese state has not been completed and that the state has not recovered its legality from those who have stolen it.

4. The presence of some forces in the Lebanese arena who have roots abroad.

One of the aims of "Camp David" is undoubtedly to exacerbate the situation in Lebanon. This aim must be foiled.

This is why we have been insisting that the Lebanese state make quick strides along the road of national dialog and national detente. This would put an end to all pretexts and would close all doors. We have sensed that large sectors of Lebanese society do not wish to slip down the road of aggravated security conditions.

This attitude has encouraged us. Naturally, we do not expect the national forces or those who want security, stability, prosperity and strength for Lebanon to exacerbate the situation. It will come at the hands of certain circles which the Israelis are using.

Question: Don't you believe that the recent escalation of the situation in the south is a prelude to this exacerbation or is it merely an ordinary situation like those in the past?

Answer: General conditions in the region do not inspire satisfaction, nor do international conditions in general.

Question: During the last 2 weeks we have been living in an atmosphere in which an outbreak of war in the region was seen as so possible that the Syrian decision to withdraw or concentrate its forces was linked with this possibility. In your capacity as the foreign minister of such a principal state as Syria and after your visit to Paris, do you believe that a war in the Middle East is likely?

Answer: As I said earlier, the "Camp David" parties are seeking to implement the "Camp David" policy in the region and to restrict this region to this policy and to the service of their interests. There are forces in the area which oppose this policy and Syria leads these forces. It is therefore natural that we should expect various pressures in various fields and by various methods to confuse Syria and weaken its stand and pan-Arab position. We naturally follow daily the hostile and offensive Israeli statements. We cannot but link these statements and the line of progress of the "Camp David" movement. Will Israel launch a military attack against Syria? Such issues are not raised in this form. If Syria is subjected to an Israeli aggression, then the Arab people in Syria would resist this aggression with all their power. They believe that the Arab nation would support them and side with them in resisting and confronting this aggression.

Question: It has been stated that during his visit to Syria, Gromyko offered aid, different from past aid, to confront such a possibility.

Answer: The question is put inaccurately. During Gromyko's visit to Syria, we exchanged views on the general international conditions, on conditions in the area and how to confront the various possible world developments and those of the situation in the region. We did not discuss the question of Soviet military aid to Syria because the object of the visit was to exchange views on the international situation and the situation in the region. This, naturally, does not annul or weaken the importance of the Soviet stand vis-a-vis the Arab question or of Soviet aid for the Arabs in general and for Syria in particular.

Question: Do you believe that Menahem Begin's threats to Syria because of its presence in Lebanon are serious or are they the result of developments in the region?

Answer: It is clear that the aim of Begin's statements is to push matters toward a security explosion in Lebanon. When Begin made statements in the past, some became involved in the security explosion operation. Anyhow, the Israelis were the winners and the Arabs were the losers.

Question: Some have depicted that one of the reasons for the recent tension in your relations with the Lebanese regime is the fact that you blame Lebanon for adopting an independent foreign policy on the Islamabad conference and for the stand it adopted on the crisis in Afghanistan.

Answer: This too is one of the attempts to distort the Syrian position. We are, naturally, two separate states and each has its policy and system of rule. We have never asked the Lebanese regime to adopt the same stand as Syria. The stands adopted on issues raised at the Arab arena are proof of this. They were pan-Arab issues and the stands of Lebanon and Syria were not identical. Despite this, we did not say one word to the Lebanese Government. Having said nothing about basic issues connected with the Arab situation, how then can we blame Lebanon for its stand on Afghanistan?

Naturally, this is cheap talk aiming to cause harm and distortion. Some Arab states which are members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front--Algeria, Libya and the PLO--went to Pakistan. Despite this, we did not blame them. How then can we blame Lebanon?

The Arab states are absolutely not required to adopt unified stands on current international issues although they ought to do so. We wish that an Arab meeting had been held to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and adopt a unified Arab stand. This would have been far better than the present situation because the stands adopted do not serve the Arab cause entirely. It is clear that the problem of Afghanistan is a Soviet-U.S. conflict connected with the policy of the two states and with the state of relaxation between them. Why then should we in the Arab world enter into wars on behalf of the Americans when NATO, which is directly involved, met and failed to adopt a decision on the situation in Afghanistan and when Europe has not adopted a decision on the situation in Afghanistan? Some Arab states rushed to adopt stands. Why? Is this our battle at all? If the question is connected with Islam and with the defense of Islam, then this stand should have been adopted when Taraki carried out his coup and when Afghanistan became a communist state. Not a voice was raised then to weep for or bewail Islam in Afghanistan. There were developments in Afghanistan. There was a struggle within the ruling party there between two lines. One line cooperated with China and had connections with the United States and the other line is that of the current regime. When the struggle among the communists in Afghanistan took place, the shouting and bewailing of Islam began.

What is comical too is that some officials in the Western world should stand and bewail Islam and the Muslims and demand the formation of an Islamic peace force. I do not know if they would allow an Islamic force to be formed to liberate Jerusalem. Is the problem of Islam in Afghanistan and not in Palestine? Why are the Muslims being massacred in Palestine and in Jerusalem--which is one of the Islamic sanctities and the third holy place--and why are Muslims being killed in Lebanon and Syria by U.S. aircraft and weapons and why don't the Americans bewail Islam and the Muslims? The Americans are now shedding crocodile tears on Islam in Afghanistan.

In addition, the United States wants to use the Islamic states in its present conflict with the Soviet Union. This is designed to serve its strategy, no more, no less. Had the United States been serious about defending Pakistan, the volume of its aid to Pakistan would not have been $200 million over two years. When the Americans want Israel to fight the Arabs and to fight the Muslims and Islam, they provide it with military aid worth $2 billion, but when they want to defend Islam in Afghanistan and Pakistan they provide Pakistan with $100 million annually. This conveys the seriousness of the U.S. position.

There are some circles in the Western world which want to exploit Islam in order to destroy it. Islam, as a revolutionary force, is represented in the Iranian Revolution. The Iranian Revolution, which toppled the shah and ended the U.S. presence in Iran, is threatening imperialist interests in the area and the world, and is threatening an outbreak of Islamic revolution in many Islamic states, which today live under the umbrella of Western hegemony. Therefore, in order to destroy what the Iranian Revolution has represented of Islamic values--liberation and ethical values which are opposed to aggression, imperialism, oppression, dictatorship and hegemony--they are expressing concern for Islam and are trying to show that the [Soviet] campaign is against Islam. They are trying to suppress the effects left by the Iranian Revolution and to display Islam as a tool which can be used by these states, and thus harm Islam and the Muslims.

Furthermore, even with regard to Pakistan, as the biggest Islamic state, by taking this attitude they want to put an end to Pakistan and destroy it. It is clear that when Pakistan is flung into such a battle, it will face great pressures, which will lead to an explosion in the country as a result of this conflict. The Pakistanis are anticipating this. We know that Pakistan is composed of a number of ethnic nationalities. A continuation of this situation will create new hotbeds of tension in Pakistan. This, in turn, will weaken Pakistan and end it as the biggest Islamic state. Pakistan was the largest Islamic state before Bangladesh seceded from it. Bangladesh seceded, and now there is a plot against Pakistan, as the biggest Islamic state, in order to destroy it.

Within this framework, the Pakistanis must understand the enthusiasm of some Western circles to involve them in a conflict which is not their own.

Question: Let us return to this subject; the Arabs who objected to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan justified their stand by the fact that this precedent will drag the United States into similar interventions in the Middle East. These Arabs cite American intervention in Oman as an example.

Answer: Never. First, this isn't so. Why should there be an American intervention? Is any of the Arab countries being threatened by foreign intervention? The only direct threat is posed by Israel and Zionism. So, is the United States on the side of the Arab countries or on Israel's side? All of Arab capital, oil and efforts have not changed U.S. policy one iota. For, at a time when Arab investments in the United States are on the rise and when the United States needs Arab oil even more than it used to, the United States is extending huge military aid to Israel and the U.S. administration is declaring that Israel constitutes part of U.S. security.

Should the United States have to choose between the Arabs and Israel, it will never choose the Arabs. We must never delude ourselves into thinking that the United States will side with the Arabs simply because the Americans themselves are publicly declaring this attitude. They are saying: We support Israel. However, some Arabs want us to believe that America is supporting us and not Israel. Hence we do not believe that the developments in Afghanistan will give a pretext to the United States [to intervene]. For when the United States wants to carry out a military operation in this or that country, it does not wait for justifications or pretexts from other parties.

Question: Some diplomatic circles in the Middle East have it that a settlement in the Middle East might be worked out at the UN Security Council and the United Nations. What information do you have to this effect?

Answer: I have no information whatsoever and I do not believe the United States is capable of putting an end to the Camp David agreement. When we talk about an overall settlement, we must first of all consider the abolition of all the agreements that have been concluded to date--be this the Egyptian-Israeli agreement or the Camp David agreement--and the Americans are not willing to take an attitude. Moreover, I personally have no information in this respect.

Question: How can you explain the speedy and sudden upsurge in Israeli-Egyptian relations, particularly when after normalizing their relations they will arrange for diplomatic representation to pave the way for autonomy through a tripartite U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli meeting?

Answer: We were not surprised by the acceleration of the steps between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity in Palestine. We were not surprised because the Egyptian regime is asked [presumably by the United States] to carry out this mission. It is asked to perform this mission quickly because the developments in the world situation, in the Middle East, and the domestic situation in Egypt worry the Americans and the Israelis. They want to reach the maximum goals in bilateral relations in order to solidify these relationships prematurely.

We, therefore, expect that the two sides will intensify their contacts, relations and agreements in various domains.

Concerning autonomy, we believe that the Egyptian regime will put its signature to it. The differences over the signing are merely a coverup. We must recall that the atmosphere surrounding the Camp David negotiations and the treaty was the same as that now surrounding the autonomy talks generated in order to dissipate the reaction. We are dead sure that As-Sadat will eventually sign anything he is asked to. But does this mean that he will end the Arab-Israeli conflict? We believe that the signing of the Camp David agreements and the peace treaty have further complicated the situation in the area as well as further increased the tensions of the conflict because they have disclosed to the Arabs the real dangers and expansionism of Zionism. This took place at a time when the Israelis were talking of peace and when As-Sadat was negotiating with the Israelis, yet when simultaneously Israel was establishing more settlements in the West Bank. This also revealed to the Arabs the reality of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the Camp David agreements as well as the nature of the Zionist enemy. Certainly this clear vision has exacerbated the tension not only in the area but also in the world. We must not forget or fail to consider that the Afghanistan developments have been caused by the Camp David agreement.

JORDANIAN ENVOY CONVEYS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT AL-ASAD

JN141726 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon received Jordanian Minister of State Hasan Ibrahim. Attending the meeting were 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Faruq ash-Shar', Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs; and Husayn Hamami, Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

Minister Ibrahim told JNA in Damascus that he delivered a message from His Majesty King Husayn to President Hafiz al-Asad on the latest developments in the Arab world, the international situation and bilateral relations. He added that he has a reply message from President al-Asad to the king on the president's evaluation of the situation in the area and the world.

Minister Ibrahim left Damascus for Amman. He was seen off by the Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs and the Jordanian ambassador to Syria.

KHADDAM RECEIVES PDRY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

JN201337 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Feb 80 JN

[Text] This morning, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received 'Abd al-Wahid al-Fari', director of the Arab homeland desk of the PDRY Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to SANA, 'Abd al-Wahid al-Fari' said: I conveyed to 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam a message from the PDRY minister of foreign affairs dealing with relations between the two fraternal states within the framework of continuous consultation between the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states and proceeding from our appreciation of and pride in the great pan-Arab role played by the fraternal Syria.

'Abd al-Wahid al-Fari' added: The message deals with two issues: Discussing bilateral relations, which are continuously developing between the two fraternal states, and the recent political developments in the Arab region and the escalating imperialist onslaught against the Arab nation.

KHADDAM RECEIVES PFLP-GC OFFICIALS 20 FEB

JN201326 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1100 today, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--General Command [PFLP-GC], and members of the PFLP-GC Talal Naji and Fadil Surur.

During the meeting, the current situation in the Arab region and recent developments in the Lebanese arena were discussed.

ARAB MINISTERIAL DELEGATION LEAVES ON AFRICAN TOUR

JN201702 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar' left Damascus today, leading an Arab ministerial delegation on a series of visits to a number of African countries, in implementation of the resolutions of the 10th Arab summit conference, held in Tunis recently.

This tour is for the purpose of explaining the Arab position on the Camp David accords and the normalization of relations conspiracy between As-Sadat's regime and the Zionist enemy to the leaders of the countries the delegation will be visiting.

The countries the delegation will visit are Upper Volta, Togo, Gambia, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau.

AL-ASAD CHAIRS NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE FRONT MEETING

JN202021 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Feb 80 JN

[Text] The National Progressive Front Central Command met at 1915 today under the chairmanship of President Hafiz al-Asad. The Central Command resumed its discussion of a special working paper concerning improvement of the National Progressive Front's efficacy. The committee, which was formed by a decision by the front chairman in order to evolve formulas to improve the front, prepared the working paper after undertaking meetings and studies for this purpose.

ATH-THAWRAH ON RAISING OF ISRAELI FLAG IN CAIRO

JN210930 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Feb 80 JN

[From the paper review]

[Text] Under the headline, "Action of the Masses and Not Silence and Waiting," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says: What can As-Sadat tell the Arabs while he is raising the Israeli flag in Cairo? What do the Arabs expect to hear from As-Sadat in the wake of this fresh treasonous step?

Through his treasonous steps, As-Sadat has broken Arab silence on several occasions. He placed everyone before the gross fact, namely, he has become a mere traitor in the same trench as Zionism and imperialism.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: The forces of Arab steadfastness led by Syria have defined their firm stand on As-Sadat's treason. Not only did these forces denounce the condemn this treason, but they also raised the banner of steadfastness and shouldered the responsibilities of this stand on the political, military and economic levels. They took upon themselves the task of total confrontation against As-Sadat, the Camp David accords and the new aggressive imperialist-Zionist alliance.

ATH-THAWRAH affirms that the stand of steadfastness was not mere words but a firm repulsion and hot confrontation, the responsibilities and burdens of which we have shouldered and continue to shoulder. It is our destiny as a country, people and party to be an element for defending pan-Arab existence, a factor of reassurance for pan-Arab destiny and a sure guarantee for the goals of Arab struggle. We faced the sides of the conspiracy on all levels and in all fields. We faced the conspiracy in Lebanon. We helped this fraternal country and stopped the bloodletting on its soil. We put an end to the civil war which was meant to undermine the unity of Lebanon's land and people. Our stand was a formidable shield which protected Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution from the Camp David conspiracy.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BENDJEDID VIEWS SAHARA QUESTION

LD181503 Algeria EL MOUDJAHID in French 10 Feb 80 pp 1, 3 LD

[Apparent text of President Chadli Bendjedid undated Constantine speech: "The Party Represents the Elite and Its Members Must Be a Symbol of Sincerity, Integrity, Patriotism and Work in the Common Interest"]

[Excerpt] Dear Brothers, I have described the points I wanted to call to mind with you today.

Certainly, there are other questions about which I hope to have the opportunity to speak with you.

The past year has seen intense diplomatic activity, and I have had many opportunities to participate in international conferences. During my meetings with a great many heads of state and prestigious officials, I reasserted Algeria's firm stances, in particular on the national liberation causes.

We respect the peoples' right to self-determination and to the recovery of their independence, and we defend all just causes.

It was clear to the African leaders at the Monrovia conference that the Sahara question is the cause of a people struggling for their right to self-determination and in no way a conflict between Algeria and Morocco.

Algeria has no territorial claim on the Sahara, just as it has no border problem with Morocco.

I was personally present at the Infrane meeting with the late President Houari Boumediene, and I also took part in the Rabat meeting when King Hassan II proclaimed before African heads of state that there were no frontier problems between Algeria and Morocco.

So, for our part, the frontier problem does not exist. Similarly, our frontiers with Morocco are clear. If problems have now arisen, they are the outcome of a divergence of views between the two countries on the Western Sahara question.

We claimed the Algerian people's right to self-determination during the war of independence--a principle we chose with regard to other countries and to which we still adhere on behalf of the Saharan people.

Rumors once circulated that this conflict was a personal conflict between President Boumediene, may his soul rest in peace, and King Hassan II. This is false, because it is a matter of principle. The late president spoke in the name of the Algerian people and defended the principles of the Algerian revolution.

The success of the Saharan cause is a victory for all just causes, and we must now show negligence in defense of this cause, since we acquired our independence after waging a liberation struggle and after suffering under colonialism.

Our attitude remains loyal to our history and to the principles for which our martyrs fell.

Once more, I am anxious to reaffirm that we harbor no aggressive feeling toward the fraternal Moroccan people, since we firmly believe that all the inhabitants of this region in which we live have throughout history formed a single people.

If we disagree with the Moroccan regime on how to resolve the Western Sahara problem, we have never tried to interfere in Morocco's internal affairs despite the numerous opportunities which have arisen, such as the events of Skhirat....

In fact, we were and still are convinced that only the Moroccan people are entitled to express an opinion on their internal affairs and to resolve their problems as they wish.

Despite our position, the Moroccan regime for its part has tried during Algeria's moments of difficulty to create problems for us, with the aim of attacking our country's stability and by proceeding to use arms in a region of Algeria with a view to inciting disturbances. By acting thus, the Moroccan regime has proved that it undervalues the Algerian people.

Our people, fashioned by the war of independence which consolidated their national unity, are above all a people jealous of their independence. All the distinctions and disparities which colonialism supported according to the "divide and rule" principle have disappeared. However, the incalculable price paid by Algeria to recover its independence was not in vain. The supreme sacrifice of 1.5 million martyrs from all regions of the country consecrated our people's national unity. The National Liberation Front groupings fully grasp their responsibilities for the consolidation of this unity and in defense of our fundamental options, derived essentially from our Arab-Islamic values and our revolutionary principles.

The Presence of Foreign Soldiers on Our Frontiers Is a Threat to the Algerian Revolution

In this context, dear brothers, we must emphasize the recent events to the east of our frontier.

Certain mass media of the country concerned have tried to claim an Algerian role in these events. We proclaimed our point of view in all frankness and clarity, and reaffirmed the principles to which we adhere.

We stated that we desire for ourselves what we desire for our neighbors and our brothers. And, if we never tolerated anyone's interference in our internal affairs, we will never permit outselves to interfere in another's internal affairs.

What has happened in this neighboring country is an internal affair concerning that brother-people, and we are not involved either from far or near. Thus we reject direct or indirect accusations against Algeria in this affair, which only involves the country concerned.

Moreover, we reject the idea that this type of affair is a pretext for a foreign troop presence on our frontiers. We consider such an occurrence appropriately a threat to the Algerian revolution.

We have worked and will work for stability in the region, and we have kept permanent watch over the consolidation of the policy of cooperation and good-neighborliness. We have always been and will always remain true to our word. That is our position toward our Moroccan brothers, and the accords signed with that country will one day be revealed. Then it will be confirmed that several times we sacrificed certain material interests to Morocco's advantage, believing that this would serve the Moroccan people and the whole region. We have respected this same attitude toward our other neighbors, but the policy of cooperation and good-neighborliness should not be pursued to the profit of one partner and the detriment of the other.

Dear brothers, it is our duty to raise other questions during this meeting, our position is firm and clear on the Palestine question. Despite the contradictions which the Arab Maghreb is experiencing and the troubles it is suffering, Algeria will remain faithful to the Palestinian people's cause.

We rejected the capitulatory solutions endorsed by the Egyptian regime via the Camp David agreements. We have said that the region's essential problem is that the Palestinian people are living in exile, robbed of their land and their country.

Even should the Arab states recover the territories occupied in 1967, the so-called Middle East problem will remain untouched so long as the Palestinian people's problem remains unsolved.

The Iranian Revolution Is a Positive and Determining Factor in the Arab-Islamic Region.

Dear brothers, we believe the Iranian Revolution is a positive and determining factor in the Arab-Islamic region. It is a genuine people's revolution. We have done our duty by strengthening the Iranian Revolution at all levels. We did this, being quite convinced that the positive action of this revolution will benefit the whole region, despite the reservations shown by some Arab and Islamic states.

Our position is dictated by our understanding of Islam, which was a determining factor in the Algerian revolution's victory--how many martyrs fell with weapon in hand crying: "God is great."

Thus I have declared more than once that nobody has the right to give us lessons on Islam, which we believe is a progressive religion, socialist in concept and based on social justice.

Algeria is a Muslim, Arab and socialist state. Our positions are clear on this choice, made by our people, around which they are grouped, and whence comes our concern to guard the emergence of the values of our national character stemming from our understanding of Islam.

In this context I shall raise another question on which we have expressed our view to our friends in complete frankness.

We are opposed to foreign interference, but we will not let ourselves fall into the trap laid by the reactionary and imperialist states. Once again we affirm our faith in nonalinement and in its positive concept, and we reject intervention in another country's internal affairs.

We defend the principles in which we believe. We cooperate with brotherly, friendly countries. We cooperate with Arab and Islamic states and with socialist countries. Similarly, we cooperate with the West, but based on an essential element to which we hold firm; namely, our country's interest. We cannot accept the sacrifice of Algeria's interests to satisfy any other state.

MEETING OF FLN POLITICAL BUREAU REPORTED

LD202118 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] This morning the FLN Political Bureau held a meeting at the presidency under Chadli Bendjedid, president and secretary general of the FLN, to discuss among other things the state monopoly of foreign trade on the basis of studies by the committee formed by the Political Bureau to examine this question.

After examining regional developments in the light of recent events, the political committee endorsed Algeria's adherence to the policy of brotherhood, cooperation and good neighborliness. While expressing its deep concern at the development of events, the political bureau denounced military interventions by foreign forces which constitute a danger to the independence and security of all states in the region. The Political Bureau also confirmed Algeria's attachment to the charter of Hasei Messaoud which forms the basis of our relations with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

BEN YAHIA TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA 26-29 FEB

LD201612 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Summary] Foreign Minister Ben Yahia will pay an official visit to India from 26 to 29 February at the invitation of the Indian foreign minister.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR IRAQ'S NATIONAL CHARTER

JN201839 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 20 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 February--The Algerian Government has announced its consent and welcome for the national charter announced by President Saddam Husayn on 8 February. Abderrahmane Cheriet, Algerian ambassador to Iraq, conveyed his government's agreement to officials at the Foreign Ministry today.

The number of countries that have officially announced their agreement to the national charter thus becomes eight. These countries are Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Algeria and the Palestine Liberation Organization [as received].

DPRK DELEGATION ARRIVES FROM SOFIA 20 FEB

LD202254 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] A Korean delegation led by (Kim Il-kum Hunan), member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the DPRK Workers Party, today arrived in Algiers from Sofia for a 1-week visit at the invitation of the FLN Central Committee. He was welcomed at the airport by Affan Jalali, member of the political committee and chairman of the party's elections committee. In a statement on arrival at Boumediene Airport, (Hunan) underlined the existing solidarity between the two parties and peoples and said his arrival was within the framework of strengthening cooperation between Korea and Algeria. In addition to holding political talks with party officials, the delegation will visit west Algeria.

This evening an Algerian delegation led by Jalali and the Korean delegation led by (Hunan) held talks at the party headquarters.

## LIBYA

JANA: TUNISIAN STUDENTS PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT

LD181012 Tripoli JANA in English 0832 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, February 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Tunisian suppressive forces and militia continue their siege of the university precincts in Tunis. The students had staged a sit-in two days ago inside the university compound, announced a strike and chanted slogans of support hailing the grand al-Fatah revolution and the downfall of the ruling idols propped up by imperialism to control the capabilities of the Tunisian peoples. According to news from the protectorate, study has not returned to normal in the schools in spite of the allegations of the mass media to the contrary.

### Students Continue Strike

LD201054 Tripoli JANA in English 0945 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Paris, February 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--It is reported that the students' strike in Tunisian universities and colleges is still going on despite the repressive campaign launched against them by the Tunisian protectorate's regime. The involvement of the repressive forces led to violent clashes with the students protesting against the French invasion of Tunisia. One law student was killed in these clashes last Monday.

Furthermore, the students at Qafsah colleges organized a demonstration last Saturday against the French invasion, which involved the participation of local people. The demonstration which became impressive frightened the French and Tunisian forces which have been there since the outbreak of the Tunisian popular uprising.

JANA: 'BLOODY CLASHES' IN TUNISIAN CAPITAL 15 FEB

LD201536 Tripoli JANA in English 1409 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Paris, February 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Bloody clashes took place in the Tunisian capital last Friday between the regime's national guards and a group of militants intending to occupy the TV and radio stations. In the face of this concentrated attack, the authorities were forced to call for more military reinforcements from the city of Quranbaliyah.

BULGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ARRIVES 20 FEB

LD201810 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli--Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov arrived in Tripoli at noon today for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA the guest expressed his happiness and that of the accompanying delegation at being in Libya, pointing out that the visit falls within the framework of consolidating mutual cooperation between the two peoples who stand firmly against all colonialist attempts in the world.

## MAURITANIA

### FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM WEST AFRICAN TOUR

AB141920 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 14 Feb 80 AB

[Text] Mr Mohamed el Mokhtar Ould Zamel, our minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, returned home yesterday morning at the end of a visit which took him to Senegal, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Guinea-Conakry. The purpose of that visit was to deliver messages from Lt Col Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee of National Salvation, head of the state and government, to the leaders of those different countries. The content of the messages touched on the consolidation of relations with those countries and the explanation of the current situation of our country.

### HAYDALA, IRAQI AMBASSADOR DISCUSS ARAB ISSUES

AB191534 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 19 Feb 80 AB

[Text] This morning, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, president of the Military Committee for National Salvation, head of state and government, received in audience His Excellency Mr 'Abd Husayn ar-Rafa'i, Iraqi ambassador to our country.

After the audience, the Iraqi diplomat declared to the Mauritanian Press Agency that he had held talks with the head of state on prospects for cooperation between Mauritania and Iraq which, he said, was in constant progress in the interest of the two brotherly countries and the whole Arab nation. Also, the Iraqi ambassador said that he and the head of state had discussed Arab and international issues of concern to the two countries. The ambassador paid tribute to Mauritania for its right position on issues concerning the Arab and international world.

### HAYDALA RECEIVES SENEGALESE ENVOY 20 FEB

AB201446 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 20 Feb 80 AB

[Text] Late in the morning, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, head of state and government, received in audience Mr Robert Sagna, the Senegalese secretary of state for sea fishing, who arrived in Nouakchott this morning with a message from President Senghor of Senegal. Mr Robert Sagna, who is accompanied by two advisers and the Senegalese director of fisheries, was received upon arrival this morning by Mr Soumare Oumar, minister of fisheries and maritime economy, and Mr Alioune Cisse, the Senegalese ambassador to Mauritania. The Senegalese secretary of state will leave the capital this afternoon.

## MOROCCO

### MOROCCO, LEBANON EXCHANGE COOPERATION ACCORD DOCUMENTS

LD210619 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 14 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report: "Morocco-Lebanon: Exchange of Ratification of Instruments Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation"]

[Text] Morocco and Lebanon exchanged on Monday in Beirut the instruments of ratification of the agreement on economic and technical cooperation signed by the two countries in Rabat 10 March 1972.

This agreement will come into force a fortnight after the exchange of the instruments of ratification--that is, on 27 February 1980. It envisages that the two sides will work to establish substantial economic and technical cooperation between the two countries and strengthen it in such a way as to insure their respective optimum development. According to the agreement, cooperation between the two countries applies to public, private and mixed Moroccan and Lebanese financial bodies.

The agreement also envisages the setting up of scientific research institutes, the exchange of technical documents and information, research in the agricultural, industrial and tourism fields, the formulation of joint production projects and the promotion of trade activity and investments in the two countries.

In the field of technical cooperation, the two countries will exchange experience in the industrial, agricultural and tourism fields, as well as visits by experts and teachers, and train the skilled personnel and technical staff essential for the two countries' economic development. In order to facilitate the implementation of this agreement, the two sides have decided to set up a joint commission to draft the detailed provisions of the cooperation program. It will meet alternately in Rabat and Beirut at the request of one of the sides and whenever the need for consultations so requires.

The exchange of the instruments of ratification of this agreement took place in Beirut between Morocco's charge d'affaires in Lebanon Mohamed Abderrahmane Alaoui and the director for economic affairs at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry.

## SUDAN

### NIGERIAN MINISTER ARRIVES IN KHARTOUM WITH MESSAGE

JN191728 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 19 February--Nigerian Minister of State for Finance (Alhaji 'Ali Baba) arrived here today on a visit to Sudan. During the visit, he will convey a message to President Numayri from Nigerian President Alhaji Shehu Shagari. The contents of the message have not yet been disclosed. The Nigerian minister was received by 'Abd al-Hamid Dawud, presidency director of the economic department, and by the Nigerian ambassador in Khartoum.

## TUNISIA

### DESTOURIAN PARTY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON VISIT TO CAMEROON

LD201642 Tunis TAP in English 1403 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Feb 20 (TAP)--President Ahmadou Ahidjo of the Republic of Cameroon asserted his fraternal support to all measures taken by Tunisia to face the aggression perpetrated by a group of mercenaries against the nation, on the instigation of the Libyan regime, said Tuesday Mr Rachid Chatty member of the Destourian Socialist Party (PSD), at his return from the Republic of Cameroon, where he had represented the PSD in the congress of the Cameroon National Union, held recently in Yaounde.

Referring to the participation of the Tunisian delegation in this congress, Mr Rachid Chatty noticed that the Tunisian delegate's address had a great echo to the Cameroon officials and several ambassadors of the brother and friendly countries who asserted their countries' support to Tunisia.

U.S. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY ARRIVES 20 FEB

LD202346 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Donald McHenry arrived this evening in Tunis on a 2-day official visit. The visit comes at the end of the U.S. ambassador's tour of seven Middle East and North African countries.

The U.S. envoy stated on arrival that this visit is within his jurisdictions as U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations. He said that the United States and Tunisia are linked by good relations. He expressed hope that his talks with Tunisian Government officials, which will deal with issues of mutual and regional concern, will also be beneficial to both sides.

## WESTERN SAHARA

SAHARAN STATEMENT ON CLASHES WITH MOROCCAN FORCES CITED

LD172224 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] On 13 February Saharan fighter aircraft attacked the El Aaiun and Dakhlah in the Western Sahara. During the attack the Saharan fighters shot down two Moroccan planes, a Mirage F1 whose pilot was killed and a Mirage F5 whose pilot, (?Captain) Bushrif Lahmid, was captured. Four hundred and twenty-one Moroccan soldiers were killed.

The Saharan information minister explained in a statement issued today that this attack took place at 0600 13 February and ended at 2310 on the eve of celebrations of the fourth anniversary of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. The enemy sustained losses in men and equipment; some position in the town were occupied; the town's defense belt was smashed and occupied; important establishments in (Dwakhil) and the headquarters of the invading forces were destroyed; fuel, ammunition and supplies stores were burnt down. One radar installation, 10 lorries and 35 landrovers, 3 machineguns and 11 guns were destroyed and 190 dead were among the occupiers; a large number were wounded. The Saharan fighters also captured important quantities of arms and ammunition. The Moroccan Royal Air Force intervened, but could do nothing. The Saharan anti-aircraft system shot down one Mirage F1, whose pilot was killed. A third regiment which came to help the Moroccan forces was ambushed by the Saharan fighters. The occupiers sustained heavy losses and were forced to flee in the direction of Bojador. The result of this operation was that 231 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 75 wounded. Important arms and equipment were seized or destroyed. Another Mirage F5 was shot down and its pilot captured.

KUBERSKY REPORTS NO BREAKTHROUGH IN AUTONOMY TALKS

TA201827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The head of the Israeli team in the working group deliberations on the autonomy, Hayim Kubersky, has said there has been no breakthrough in the talks now being held in Tel Aviv. However, there was some slow progress on two issues--election procedures and the distribution of power in Judaea and Samaria.

Hayim Kubersky told our correspondent, Dan Eshel, that nothing was agreed upon, but a new road has been found to clarify some issues. The working groups, which are discussing the powers of the administrative council, continued to categorize the powers during the 3 days of talks. The Egyptian delegation will return to Cairo tomorrow.

PLENARY AUTONOMY TALKS IN LONDON POSTPONED ONE DAY

TA201231 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Feb 80 p 2 TA

[By political correspondent Dani'el Blooh]

[Text] The meeting of the heads of the autonomy talks delegations has been postponed by 1 day due to the presenting of the credentials of the Israeli ambassador in Egypt. Therefore, it will take place in London next Wednesday.

It was Egypt's prime minister, Dr Mustafa Khalil, who asked for the postponement so that it would enable him to attend the presentation of Ambassador Ben-Elisar's credentials in Cairo and to avoid any misinterpretation of his absence. The meeting in London will be attended by Dr Burg, Dr Khalil and U.S. Ambassador Sol Linowitz.

The interior minister will be leaving for Europe this week on a campaign on behalf of Israeli bonds.

CHINA, EGYPT REPORTEDLY SIGN ARMS DEAL

TA201935 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service 1900 GMT 20 Feb 80 TA

[Text] There is news of a big arms deal between Egypt and the PRC. Our correspondent in Cairo, Ehud Ya'ari, reports that the two countries signed this deal during Vice President Husni Mubarak's visit to Beijing a few weeks ago. This deal includes ships, helicopters, the Chinese version of the MiG 21, fighter bombers and spare parts. Our correspondent also report that Chinese technicians are now in Egypt in order to help with the first planes received from China--MiG 19's. This report has not yet been officially confirmed.

EGYPTIAN DELEGATION TOURS ASHDOD PORT

TA201920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Feb 80 TA

[Text] An Egyptian delegation visited the Port of Ashdod today. The delegation comprised the director of the Egyptian ports authority as well as seven senior officials from the Transportation Ministry. They met with the director of the port, toured the piers and talked with Israeli officials. The talks centered on cooperation between the Israeli and Egyptian ports authorities and on the maritime contacts between the two countries. The members of the Egyptian delegation refused to answer questions asked by correspondents and also asked not be photographed.

YADIN WARNS SYRIA AGAINST CONCENTRATING FORCES ON BORDER

TA210917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The deputy prime minister has warned Syria against concentrating large military units along its border with Israel. He said that Israel has taken all the precautionary measures necessary against a possibility that trouble should come from the north.

Yiga'el Yadin said that thousands of Syrian tanks are currently stationed in the northeastern front, moving from place to place, thus causing a focus of tension. The deputy prime minister was speaking at the meeting of the Hebrew Union College Board of Trustees in Jerusalem.

SECURITY SOURCES CONCERNED OVER LEBANESE VILLAGE

TA202040 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Security sources regard with seriousness the destruction of the Christian village of Qnat in northern Lebanon. Syrian forces have virtually erased the village and its inhabitants from the face of the earth following heavy fighting which lasted 4 days. The inhabitants of the village surrendered when the Syrians sent army and armored corps reinforcements to the area. The eradication of the village of Qnat, most of whose inhabitants are Christian, should sound a warning signal, security elements in Israel believe. They think that the Syrians, with PLO support, might begain a war to annihilate the Christians in Lebanon.

MCHENRY MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, WEIZMAN

TA201206 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Feb 80 pp 1, 2 TA

[Text] In yesterday's talks, which U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Donald McHenry conducted with the Foreign Ministry Directorate and with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, McHenry expressed the State Department's traditional positions regarding the Palestinians, Lebanon and Jewish settlements.

In the morning, during a talk at the Foreign Ministry, McHenry criticized Cabinet decisions regarding Jewish settlements, including the settlement of Jews in Hebron, explaining the difficulties this caused the United States at the United Nations. McHenry advised Israel not to ignore the United Nations and to take the organization's influence into account when reaching political decisions. He took exception to Israel's policy regarding the Palestinian issue, blaming it for some of the difficulties the United States had at the United Nations. Foreign Ministry officials pointed to the hostile UN attitude toward Israel, the unbalanced division of power at the United Nations and the frustrations that organization is causing the United States when the latter solicits its assistance on various international issues.

In a talk with the defense minister, McHenry discussed UNIFIL complaints about IDF assistance in Christian militias and the positioning of Major Haddad's units in UNIFIL-controlled areas. 'Ezer Weizman answered with fervor that Israel supported Haddad not only for humane reasons but also because the buffer zone enclaves serve Israel's interests. Weizman reminded McHenry that UNIFIL came to Lebanon only after the IDF assumed control of that area following terrorist aggression from southern Lebanon. He pointed out the attention the United States is devoting to this particular issue, while the Soviet Union is striving to downplay it in the Middle East.

McHenry took issue with Weizman on the settlements policy, specifically mentioning the decision to settle Jews in Hebron. Weizman pointed out the principled nature of that decision and McHenry asked him how this could accommodate Israel's wish to strengthen peace with Egypt and conclude the autonomy negotiations successfully. Weizman in response asked how could the United States reconcile itself to the inconsistency between its wish to safeguard the lives of its citizens and the principle of maintaining its sovereignty. The result of that contradiction, the defense minister said, is the U.S. policy as reflected in the handling of the Tehran hostages crisis.

### Additional Details on Weizman Meeting

TA201222 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Feb 80 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman told U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Donald McHenry yesterday that he had voted for the Cabinet decision--that the Jews have the right to settle anywhere in Eretz Yisra'el--since it was inconceivable to deny the Jews such a right. However, should the Cabinet discuss the actual implementation of the resolution--namely the settling of Jews in Hebron--he would vote against the decision. Weizman made the statement to the U.S. ambassador following McHenry's strong criticism of Israel's settlement policy and the Cabinet decision on Hebron. The meeting took place at the Knesset building yesterday afternoon.

### Departure for Tunisia

TA201609 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 20 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Donald McHenry left Israel a few minutes ago at the conclusion of a 3-day visit. Prior to his departure, McHenry made general remarks which were heard by our correspondent Avi Talmor.

[Begin McHenry recording--in English, fading into superimposed Hebrew translation] This was a useful trip from my point of view. I had the opportunity to meet Israeli Government officials and Prime Minister Menahem Begin. We exchanged views with honesty on issues in which Israel and the United States have a common interest. It was important for me to get a closer knowledge of Israeli society, culture and people, despite the fact that this was a very short visit. [end recording]

From Israel, the American ambassador will visit Tunisia and meet with President Bourguiba this evening. In regard to this trip, McHenry has expressed the firm U.S. determination not to abandon its friends throughout the world, because at this time Tunisia is vulnerable to attempts at subversion by Libya.

## REACTION TO PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION 242

### Ambassadors in Europe Prepare Offensive

TA201944 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Israel's ambassadors in Western Europe will meet in London tomorrow with the director general of the Foreign Ministry, Yosef Ciechanover. They will discuss the possibility of an Israeli diplomatic offensive against the intention of some European countries to work towards amending UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Our London correspondent, Tzvi Goren, reports that British Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hurd announced today that Britain would not recognize the PLO, but attributes significance to that organization since there is no other body claiming representation of the Palestinians.

Yadin Denounces British Initiative

TA210546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin has denounced the British attempt to change Security Council Resolution 242. Yadin declared that the move did not contribute to the peace process. Speaking before a gathering of Reform Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, Yadin called on Britain and others to give Israel, Egypt and the United States a chance to reach an agreement on autonomy after they showed the courage to take the first step. Yadin said he was sure an agreement would be reached because it was in the interest of all the parties.

Begin: U.S. Will Oppose Amendment

TA201223 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Feb 80 p 3 TA

[By parliamentary correspondent Shelomo Ginosar]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin expressed his certainty yesterday that the United States would intervene against UK Foreign Minister Lord Carrington's initiative to amend Security Council Resolution 242 which seeks to bring about an Israeli recognition of the PLO.

Briefing the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, the prime minister explained that Israel's position on Carrington's initiative was well known and that there was nothing to add to it.

"The Americans are also opposing Carrington's initiative and we are waiting to see how the United States is going to state its opposition. We are certain that it will not fail to do this," the prime minister said.

SITE OF EEC OFFICES STILL UNDETERMINED

TA201157 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By Yosef Waxman]

[Text] A conflict erupted between the Foreign Ministry and the European Common Market Commission over the Israeli Government's refusal to grant market representatives diplomatic rights and diplomatic immunity if market offices open in Tel Aviv rather than in Jerusalem.

The Government of Israel demands that the European Common Market open its offices in Jerusalem, in which case its representatives will be granted the customary rights of diplomats. Foreign Ministry circles said that the negotiations are delicate, and refused to elaborate on the issue.

MAPAM CALLS FOR PROTEST OVER BEGIN'S TERRITORY POLICY

TA201829 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Feb 80 TA

[Text] MAPAM is calling for a public protest campaign against the government's policy in the territories, especially as it is manifest in the plan to settle in Hebron. In the opinion of the MAPAM Secretariat, this plan might jeopardize a comprehensive agreement in the region.

MAPAM warns against the claim that our right to settle in Hebron is similar to our right to settle in the Old City of Jerusalem. The party's secretariat maintains that this equation removes Jerusalem from its special status in the national consensus in Israel and might turn into a tragic boomerang in the struggle to recognize unified Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

NRP MINISTERS OPPOSE DR BURG'S LEADERSHIP

TA210919 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By HA'ARETZ correspondent on party affairs Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] NRP Ministers Zvulun Hammer and Aharon Abu-Hatzera have informed Dr Yosef Burg that they do not regard him as the NRP leader because of the feud being waged between the Lamifne faction, which Burg heads, and their faction. Messrs Hammer and Abu-Hatzera are due to meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin within the next few days in order to explain to him that they do not regard Dr Burg as the number one man in the party, and if the prime minister wishes to coordinate positions with the NRP, he should do so with three ministers at the same time.

The struggle against Dr Burg reached its peak last week when, in spite of his opposition, the NRP autonomy committee met in his absence to discuss the future of the territories. It seems that the struggle became more severe this week after David Glass, a member of Minister Abu-Hatzera's faction, announced, for the first time in public, that Dr Burg should conclude his services in the party and the government at the end of the current term. Glass went on to say, "In my opinion, Dr Burg has provided and will provide important services to the party and the country, but I believe that Dr Burg himself understands that at the end of this term he should go." Mr Glass added that, what he was saying overtly, everyone was saying behind Dr Burg's back. When asked to whom he was referring, Glass said: "All our members and ministers."

At the peak of the internal feud being waged in the NRP, Ministers Hammer and Abu-Hatzera met with Dr Burg and informed him that he would have to decide where he stood in the intraparty dispute. Messrs Hammer and Abu-Hatzera demanded that Burg decide whether he intended to remain divorced from the feud between the factions, lead the party and impose internal peace, or whether he would take sides in the feud his faction was waging. In this latter case, they would regard him as being the head of the NRP faction, which only represents 30 percent of the party and he would not be considered number one.

Over the last few days the heads of the factions rivaling Lamifne have expressed disaatisfaction over the fact that Dr Burg's faction hired the services of a public relations agency in order to fight them. NRP Secretary General Mr Dani (Wermus) said yesterday that while the NRP has no money to pay the party spokesman's salary, the Lamifne faction had hired the services of a public relations agency for full fees. Mr (Wermus) also expressed surprise at the fact that from all the public relations offices the services of Mr Ben-Tzi'on Shira had been hired. Shira was an active member of the Civil Rights Movement [RATZ] headed by Shulamit Aloni, whose main ideology was a fight against the religious parties.

WEST BANK STRIKES PROTEST BAN ON AL-AQSAH RALLY

TA190835 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0745 GMT 19 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Nabulus, 19 February--A general commerce and school strike has been declared Nabulus, Ramallah and Al-Birah today to protest th[illegible]an imposed on Judaea and Samaria mayors and public figures against attending the national Palestinian convention that was to take place in the Jerusalem Al-Aqsah Mosque today. The convention was caneled.

The ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria reported that a stormy mass political rally was held in the Nabulus municipal building this morning. It was attended by representatives of professional unions, charity and women's organizations, Samaria Muslim leaders, heads of local councils and others. The speakers, headed by Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah, protested the instructions of the military authorities to mayors and notables forbidding them to take part in the Al-Aqsah convention. They also sent a telegram to the defense minister and to the Judaea and Samaria commander stating, among other things, that "the orders given to West Bank and Gaza Strip notables are intended to limit our freedom of expression and to quell our struggle." Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah told the ITIM correspondent that the struggle for freedom of expression will continue.

W. BANK MAYORS TO ATTEND MEETINGS IN JORDAN, BASLE, DOHA

TA191150 Jerusalem POST in English 19 Feb 80 p 3 TA

[By POST reporter Ian Black]

[Text] Three leading West Bank mayors plan to leave for Amman tomorrow for a series of meetings in Jordan and elsewhere, which will bring them into close contact with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Mayors Karim Khalaf (Ramallah), Muhammad Milheim (Halhul) and Bassam ash-Shak'ah (Nabulus) are going to Jordan to participate in Saturday's session of the joint Jordanian-PLO committee on "the occupied territories." The meeting is an important one, as the mayors' expected demand for more cash for their municipalities will clash with Jordan's conception of how to keep the West Bank firmly under its control.

But before then, the Jerusalem POST has learned, Khalaf and Milheim will fly to Basle to participate in a "solidarity conference with the Palestinian people" organized by the World Peace Council.

The aim of the conference, which will also be attended by a PLO delegation and representatives of RAKAH--the Israeli communist party--is "to mobilize world public opinion for the creation of an independent Palestinian state."

After returning to Amman, Khalaf and Milheim plan to attend a meeting in Doha, Qatar, of the Arab Municipal Organization. The military authorities are not believed to have expressed any opposition to their travels, although Ash-Shak'ah, it is thought, may not be permitted to go to Amman.

## AFGHANISTAN

### INDIAN CORRESPONDENT ON AMIN PLEA TO HAQ, SOVIET AIMS

BK201332 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 Feb 80 p 6 BK

[Article by Kuldip Nayar: "Will Soviet Troops Withdraw?"]

[Excerpts] Did the Russian troops come only to remove Amin? There is no doubt that he was not a popular president. But then popularity in this part of the world has seldom weighted the scales in anyone's favour, just as the lack of it has not done so against him. Amin had tumbled into office the same way as some of his predecessors had. He was close to Moscow. Mr Brezhnev had hailed him at one time and had kissed him on both cheeks.

It looks as if Amin was trying to be another Tito or another As-Sadat. He did seek outside help so as to be able to get away from Moscow. For example, he approached Islamabad in early December. Gen Zia told me that Amin sent him frantic messages for an immediate meeting. He said: "For obvious reasons, I could not have gone to meet him. I asked Mr Agha Shahi to go but the day he was to fly to Kabul, the airstrip was under snow and later it was too late because the Russians had arrived".

The sequence of events suggests that Amin had a clue of the arrival of Russian troops and was frantic to get help. The first contingent of Soviet reinforcements entered Afghanistan in the third week of November. Since he did not get any outside assistance, Amin accepted the fact of Soviet presence. That probably explains why he asked for more Russian troops on December 15; it was a de jure response to a de facto situation. The massive airlift of soldiers and armaments began 10 days later, from December 25th morning as scores of eye-witnesses in Kabul told me. For reasons best known to them, both the Soviet and the Karmal governments continue to stick to December 27 as the date of the Russian troops' arrival.

What is more intriguing is the question of the Soviet force. Only a small contingent would have been sufficient to oust Amin and his associates. In fact, the resistance in Kabul did not last more than two to three hours. With the help of Soviet advisers already in the country, the disarming of the Afghan forces was also an easy job. Why then were nine Soviet divisions sent?

One top man in Kabul told me that it was not Amin alone; the estrangement between Moscow and Washington over the lack of settlement on the middle-range missiles had "a lot to do with developments in Afghanistan". He argued that his country was a prey to the cold war between the two super powers, apart from the fact that Amin was proving to be a liability.

Iran and the Gulf must have figured considerably in Moscow's thinking. Out of nine divisions, six are said to be stationed near the Iranian border. Only last week, as many as 450 military vehicles were counted passing through Kandahar at night and proceeding towards the Iranian border. However loudly Islamabad may wail, only a division is near the Pakistan border. Two of the divisions are concentrated on a small track of territory along the China border. The insurgency is also the maximum here. Maybe, Moscow wants to draw in Beijing here and give it a bloody nose.

There are practically no troops on the Afghan-Baluchistan border. Not that it takes long to transport them to that side but the theory that Moscow wants to achieve its ambition to reach the warm waters through Baluchistan does not seem to be a consideration for the present. Baluchistan, even though unhappy with Islamabad, is not ripe to fall into the Soviet basket. Mr Kher Baksh Merri, a Marxist leader in Baluchistan, is a communist of the Lenin-Mao brand. (His shirt buttons carry Lenin's picture). The influential Baluchistan Students' Union, which looks towards him for guidance, is Naxalite in outlook and opposed to Moscow.

Will the Russian forces leave Afghanistan? There are elements in the ruling pro-Soviet Parcham who want the Soviets to fix a deadline for withdrawal. Some non-Parcham ministers in the cabinet also support this line. But the hardliners like Mr Karmal are opposed to it; they do not feel safe, internally and externally, without Soviet presence.

Consequently, New Delhi's move for the withdrawal of Russian troops through the good offices of Mr Karmal is not likely to succeed. It is true that the withdrawal will defuse the situation in this area and the Americans can then be pressurised not to destabilise the situation by injecting arms or stoking the fires in the region. But how to achieve the withdrawal? This will depend on what arrangements can be made to assure Russia that Afghanistan, a country under its belly, will be made immune from anti-Soviet activity.

New Delhi is reportedly working on a summit conference of the countries in the region, from Bangladesh to Afghanistan. Gen Zia is not enthusiastic about the proposal because he sees in it a dilution of his Islamic solidarity. But a regional approach does not come in the way of what Gen Zia is trying to do. All that it means is joint thinking whereby the region is kept away from the machinations of the super powers.

NANGARHAR PROVINCE REPORTEDLY IN REBEL HANDS

BK201521 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 20 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 20 Feb (AFP)--The east Afghan province of Nangarhar is entirely in Muslim insurgent hands except for its capital Jalalabad, the Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan rebel organisation claimed today.

Hezb-e Eslami, the best organised insurgent group, said in a communique that its mojahedin (Muslim fighters) captured the district of Aghine on Monday and local government forces joined the insurgents after "killing all communists and communist officers".

The statement said that also on Monday its forces had attacked Jalalabad technical high school, killing four "communists," and capturing 17 Soviet-manufactured Kalashnikov machine guns. Late last week some 500 soldiers deserted from Jalalabad's 11th Regiment, handing their weapons over to the mojahedin, the insurgents added.

BBC REPORTS SOVIET-AFGHAN STRATEGY MEETING IN JALALABAD

TA210613 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 21 Feb 80 TA

[From "News Desk"]

[Excerpt] The American deadline for the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan has expired, and Western correspondents say the Russians now seem to be preparing for even more active involvement in the war against the Afghan rebels.

Reports speak of a meeting in Jalalabad, in the southeast of the country, between senior Soviet Army officers and the Afghan minister of the interior to discuss ways of combating the threat from the rebels, who virtually surround the city. The correspondents say the minister and the Russian officers had to be brought from Kabul by helicopter because sections of the highway are controlled by the rebel forces.

## INDIA

### GANDHI SCORES U.S. FOR ARMING PAKISTAN 'TO THE TEETH'

BK201258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The prime miinister has said that the Soviet Union has told her that its troops would be pulled out of Afghanistan if training of Afghan guerrillas in Pakistan stops. Speaking at Gorakhpur and Lucknow Airport today, Mrs Gandhi said Pakistan has been armed to the teeth by the United States. This poses a grave danger not only to India but also to the people of Pakistan. It is also weakening the process of normalization. Mrs Gandhi said tension is fast building up in the whole region. She called for steps to prevent cold war turning into a hot war on the Afghan issue.

The prime minister said she has no idea when elections to the nine dissolved state assemblies would be held. It would be decided by the cabinet, she said. Asked by newsmen if she envisages any change in the industrial policy of the country, she said the government will continue to follow its old policy of achieving self-sufficiency.

### On Soviet Afghan Occupation

BK201625 Hong Kong AFP in English 1503 GMT 20 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 20 Feb, (AFP) Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi today said that India had "clearly" told the Soviet Union that "we are not very happy with the presence of its troops in Afghanistan. I do not know whether the troops will be withdrawn or not," but the Soviet leaders had promised to disengage their troops if Pakistan stopped training and sending Muslim rebels to create trouble in Afghanistan, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted Mrs Gandhi as saying at Takhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh state where she is on a tour in connection with a by-election to Indian Parliament.

She said that Pakistan, however, had not given any assurance in regard to the conditions set by the Soviet Union. The agency said Mrs Gandhi also spoke of danger looming on India's border following steps taken by the U.S., China and Saudi Arabia to arm Pakistan.

Referring to the Indian diplomatic initiatives to defuse the explosive situation in the region, she said a cold war atmosphere was already there and our effort is to prevent it from escalating into a hot war which will lead to killing of people, though India may not be involved in it." Any conflagration in the region would have disastrous effect to the sub-continent, she said.

Earlier Mrs. Gandhi told reporters [words indistinct] airport in the northern state on her arrival on way to Lakhimpur [word indistinct] that the latest development in the region would weaken the process of normalisation.

RAO WARNS AGAINST ARMING 'ANY COUNTRY AGAINST INDIA'

BK210310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has said that no amount of supply of arms to any country against India will pay dividends. He said past experience has shown that such attempts have always proved abortive.

Addressing several meetings at Varangal in Andhra Pradesh, Mr Rao said India has a vital stake in peace in the region as any trouble anywhere could produce a chain reaction and bring danger to her doors. He said the country should be internally strong to face any threat from outside.

Referring to India's place in the comity of nations, the external affairs minister said no country can ignore us today. Every country is keen to have bilateral relations with us. This has been reflected during the recent UNIDO conference held in New Delhi, he added.

ENVOY ON REJECTION OF U.S. MOVE FOR DEFENSE GROUPING

BK211059 Hong Kong AFP in English 1041 GMT 21 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Singapore, 21 Feb (AFP)--India had rejected an American suggestion that a regional defence organisation be formed to counter Soviet moves in the region, Indian High Commissioner (ambassador) Mr B.M. Oza said here today. Mr Oza said the approach was made by the United States soon after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan to the former caretaker government headed by Mr Charan Singh which was voted out of power in the January general election.

Addressing a luncheon meeting of the foreign correspondents' association, Mr Oza said: "The suggestion was that India, Pakistan and other countries in the region and the United States should join forces to meet the Soviet threat. We said we were not interested in any regional defence arrangement." He said the argument for the regional organisation was that the Afghan situation posed a threat to India as it did to some other countries, and therefore a common endeavour would be to the advantage of all the countries in the region.

Referring to developments in Afghanistan, Mr Oza said: "The presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan brings great power confrontation closer to us. We do not like it and have asked the Soviet Union that they should withdraw."

He said, however, that "even more disturbing" to India was the American response of supplying arms to Pakistan and making of an informal military alliance with China. "It is clearly not motivated by any pious concern for the security and well-being of the countries and the people of the region. It is in the context of their power rivalry with the Soviet Union. This is seen through by Pakistan as much as China."

Asked by a correspondent what positive steps India had taken to defuse the situation, Mr Oza said: "First of all, we approached the Governments of China and Pakistan suggesting that the new situation should not lead to any problem in terms of movement of troops or increasing tension on our respective borders. The response from the two governments has been good and the process of normalisation with China and Pakistan has not suffered as a result of the Afghan developments."

Secondly, Mr Oza said, India had told the big powers not to escalate the situation. "We have drawn the attention of the United States to the supply of arms to Pakistan which may not create tension at the moment, but will have problems for future relations between India and Pakistan."

Referring to Kampuchea, Mr Oza said though India did not condone the presence of Vietnamese troops in the country, the Heng Samrin regime was now in power and India could not ignore the realities.

Asked why the new Indian Government headed by Mrs Indira Gandhi had not recognised the Heng Samrin regime despite a promise to do so in her party's election programme, Mr Oza said there were more urgent questions, both domestic and foreign, to attend to. He recalled a statement by Mrs Gandhi a few days ago that the question was being examined, but said he could not forecast when a decision might be announced.

RIFT IN JANATA PARTY LEADERSHIP WIDENS

BK201641 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The simmering differences within the Janata leadership have come to a head with Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee and party President Chandra Shekhar indicating that they are reconciled to Mr Jagjivan Ram leaving the party. This comes close on the heels of Mr Jagjivan Ram's declaration that he will decide his future course of action at a meeting with his supporters on Saturday.

Mr Vajpayee said in Lucknow today that it is up to Mr Jagjivan Ram to finally decide if he wants to join the Congress-I. He added that those who want to leave the party need not invent excuses for it. Mr Chandhra Shekhar told newsmen in New Delhi today he does not want anybody to leave the party in this difficult hour. But if somebody wants to leave he will say goodby with a heavy heart.

All India Radio's political correspondent says that Mr Jagjivan Ram's disillusionment with the Janata leadership had begun even before the recent Lok Sabha poll. But after hectic parleys, the Janata leaders had persuaded Mr Ram to stay with the promise that he would be the prime minister if the party came to power. The party failed miserably at the polls.

The controversy came into the open again with Mr Jagjivan Ram, in a statement at Gorakhpur and Kanpur a couple of days ago, saying that there can be no truck with the Lok Dal for the coming assembly polls. This invited a rejoinder from party General Secretary Surinder Mohan, who said yesterday that the party has not taken any decision and the matter will be discussed by the parliamentary board and the national executive which, according to the party president, had been scheduled for next week. Mr Chandra Shekhar indicated today that there had been proposals for understanding from the Lok Dal and the Congress-U and these will be discussed at next week's meetings. Mr Vajpayee, however, ruled out the possibility for a merger between the Janata and the Lok Dal because of what he called bitterness of a high order between the two before and after the Lok Sabha elections. In a talk with newsmen in Simla, Mr L.K. Advani also said there is no proposal for a merger of the Janata party and the Lok Dal.

Our correspondent points out that Mr Jagjivan Ram had indicated that his position in the party had been made untenable with the allegation that he and his supporters had been responsible for the party's defeat.

In a letter to his supporters, Mr Jagjivan Ram is reported to have said he has been receiving complaints that members of the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] had campaigned for the Congress-I candidates. Our correspondent adds that it appears from the Janata leaders' statements today that they have given up persuading Mr Ram to stay.

## PAKISTAN

### HAQ EXPRESSES SYMPATHY FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN IRAN

BK160354 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Feb 80 BK

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed his sympathy with the flood-affected people of Iran. In a message to President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr he has assured him of assistance to the affected people. The president said as a (?show) of Pakistan's concern he has dispatched two planeloads of clothes to alleviate the hardships faced by the affected people. Pakistan will remain fully ready to give such further assistance as is required.

### HAQ SPEAKS ON AIR FORCE, AERONAUTICAL PROJECT

BK201217 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said the sole purpose of their [presumably the air force] advance toward the goal of self-sufficiency is to protect the country's territorial integrity, as they shall never come [word indistinct] compromising on the country's honor. He was speaking at a ceremony at the aeronautical complex at Kamra this morning after the handing over of the first overhauled Mirage aircraft to the Pakistan Air Force. The president said they do not entertain aggressive designs against anyone and reiterated that as a matter of policy Pakistan desires peaceful and friendly relations with all countries, particularly its neighboring states. He said: We want to utilize our resources and employ our capabilities for the progress and prosperity of our people in a climate of peace.

The president, however, declared that it is their firm resolve to defend the national independence and territorial integrity at any cost if these were found in peril. Whatever they have acquired would be pushed to use to this great cause.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said there was no doubt that some of the armaments were time-worn and obsolete and they were deficient in some defense equipment, but there was no deficiency in the unshakable determination of the nation to defend its independence and sovereignty. He said it is this resolve of theirs which is the most effective weapon of defense. He said it is with this end in view that we are striving for self-sufficiency in the field of defense and at other spheres of national requirements. The setting up of aeronautical complex at Kamra is only a link in that chain of our activity.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq underlined the vital importance of Pakistan Air Force in the country's defense. He said it was a matter of pride for him and for the entire nation that our air force, as in the past, played a commendable role and set the highest tradition in protecting the airspace of the country. He said the airmen will maintain the glorious tradition also in future and will not let the country's territorial integrity be jeopardized.

The president said the government on its part is fully alive to its responsibilities to provide the requisite resources to the air force to improve upon its professional competence for the defense of the country. The government, he said, was taking all possible steps to this purpose.

The president said that the handing over ceremony of the first-ever Mirage aircraft overhauled in at this complex will be a memorable day. This success promises to be a harbinger of our future successes in the extremely complex aircraft manufacturing industry. He said the Pakistan aeronautical project has from the very beginning figured high in the priorities of the government and he had been taking personal interest in the progress of its work. The president said that attention should now be devoted to the task of assembling the aircraft in the factory, as it would save considerable foreign exchange being spent on the purchase of fully assembled aircraft. He said the capability which the Mirage rebuild factory had now acquired can be applied to meet the requirements of small aircraft currently in use by the land forces and the navy as well as by civil departments. The president said if the work continues with progress on the right line in the factory it would greatly promote the chances of aeronautical industry to gain self-sufficiency in the near future.

The president congratulated the Pakistani technical experts at the aeronautical complex for reassembling of the Mirage aircraft. He also thanked the French experts for guidance and cooperation in the training of the workmen. The president announced a grant of 500,000 rupees for the welfare of the labor force employed in the complex.

## SRI LANKA

### NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND PAYS VISIT

BK151334 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Norway is to send an economic delegation to Sri Lanka to look into participation and investment in the free trade zone. This was disclosed by the visiting Norwegian foreign minister, Mr Frydenlund, in talks with the minister of foreign affairs, Mr A.C.A. Hameed. A proposal has been made on the conclusion of an investment protection agreement between the two countries. Sri Lanka has already concluded a double-taxation agreement with Norway.

Mr Hameed appraised the visiting minister of Sri Lanka's stand on global issues with emphasis on regional questions, particularly of South Asia.

Norway has commended Sri Lanka's stand not only at nonalined forums but also at the United Nations on global issues.

Mr Hameed assured that Sri Lanka's policy was directed toward maintenance of peace. The energy crisis was also discussed and a possible initiative for regional dialog was mentioned. It was explained that it is the responsibility of oil-producing nations to work out a formula to provide urgent relief to countries affected by the oil-price hike.

### Communique on Visit

BK201237 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Norwegian foreign minister, Mr Frydenlund, in a joint communique issued yesterday with the foreign minister, emphasized that the momentum of Sri Lanka-Norway cooperation in economic fields must be maintained at the highest possible level.

He extended an invitation to the foreign minister, Mr Hameed, to visit Norway, which was accepted.

Mr Frydenlund noted that there had been an upsurge of activities between Norway and Sri Lanka during the last 3 years mainly because of the fact that Sri Lanka became one of Norway's main development cooperation countries in 1977.

Mr Hameed during his talks with the Norwegian foreign minister invited a high-level economic delegation to visit Sri Lanka to ascertain firsthand the facilities extended to investors by the Greater Colombo Economic Commission. The two parties are now negotiating an investment promotion agreement to faciliate Norwegian investment in Sri Lanka.

Mr Frydenlund, during his week's visit ending yesterday, met President Jayewardene and Prime Minister Premadasa. He also visited the Hambantota district to see the development cooperation projects which are funded by the Norwegian Government and executed by (NORAID)--a Norwegian development cooperation agency.

The visiting minister expressed satisfaction about the manner in which Norwegian assistance is being utilized by Sri Lanka. He expressed the hope that it will be possible to expand this cooperation.

SECURITY FOR EGYPTIAN, OTHER ARAB MISSIONS TO BE TIGHTENED

BK181211 Colombo SUN in English 9 Feb 80 p 1 BK

[By Arjuna Ranawana]

[Text] The Defence Ministry yesterday formulated contingency plans to deal with any internal security problems that may be caused by the global political situation. Part of the plan already put into operation entails the provision of tight security to Egyptian and other Arab diplomatic missions in Colombo. This was to curb any incidents that may arise following the opening of diplomatic missions in each other's country by Egypt and Israel later this month. Police put into operation these measures on instructions from the Defence Ministry.

Police Chief Ana Seneviratne also held a conference yesterday with his deputies where he briefed them of the measures that had to be adopted.

The city intelligence bureau has been alerted to seek information about any group that may attempt to stage demonstrations and other activities against Egyptian-Israeli moves.

The Defence Ministry has also instructed the police to provide tight security for any personnel of foreign missions in Colombo if they have "diplomatic corps" status.

Security will be provided by various units stationed in Colombo including riot squads and paramilitary units from the field force headquarters.

Police have set the date for the plan to go into operation around February 25.